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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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The Current

March 12,
2007

www.thecurrentonline.com

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 1211

THIS WEEK

News at Noon discusses media and the Middle East

The News at Noon series will feature a discussion on the media in the Middle East at noon in 314 MSC.

Relay for Life Registration Deadline

Thursday, March 15 is the deadline to sign up a team for the Relay for Life walk, which will be held on April 13 and 14 at the MSC lakes. For more information, go to www.acsevents.org/umsl.

INSIDE

Professors debate the Iraq war and Bush's foreign policy

See page 3



'300' features blood and buff guys

The Current's movie reviewer takes a gander.

See page 8

Foreign language on campus

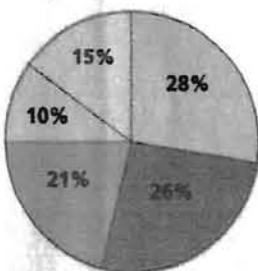
The Current takes a look at foreign languages during National Foreign Language week.

See page 6

ON THE WEB

The Current

Web poll results:
What would you do with Coach Brady's \$1.5 million



- ☐ That should barely cover tuition.
- ☐ Booze, clean and simple, lots of booze.
- ☐ Pimped out Escalade.
- ☐ Charity. Who needs money anyway?
- ☐ Hittin' Vegas.

This week's question
If you caught a leprechaun, what would you wish for?

INDEX

What's Current	2
Crimeline	2
Opinions	4-5
Features	6-7
A&E	8-9
Sports	10
Comics	13
Maximo Predicts	13

Benton-Stadler to receive \$28.5 million from MOHELA

New proposal from Missouri's governor would give full funding to science complex

By JASON GRANGER

News Editor

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt has revamped his plan for the proposed sale of \$350 million of student loans, leaving some ecstatic, and others scratching their heads.

The new plan would move forward the sale of the loans, held by the Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority, and would fully fund the proposed renovations to Benton-Stadler Hall at UM-St. Louis.

Benton-Stadler Hall houses UM-St. Louis' hard science departments as well as

the psychology department.

Last week, Blunt released a statement saying, "This is a strong list of projects for Missouri that includes most of the projects on the original list and addresses many of my priorities such as the Southeast Missouri Autism Center."

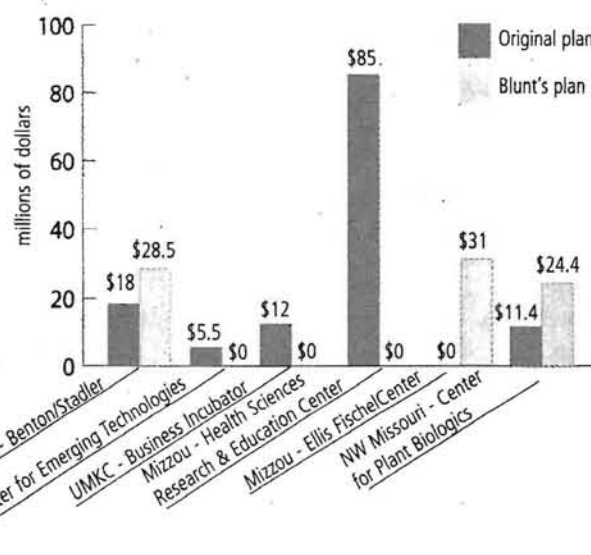
Blunt's new plan calls for \$28.5 million for the renovations, the original projection for the renovations. Previous MOHELA loan sale plans had UM-St. Louis receiving \$18 million for the renovations, leaving the school \$10 million short of needed funds. The news for UM-St. Louis was not all good, even with the increase for Benton-Stadler, as the \$5.5

million originally earmarked for the Center for Emerging Technologies was completely eliminated.

UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George said that despite the cut to the CET, he was happy with the new plan.

"I had spoken with the governor about this when he was here last week," George said. "We're back in for the full amount of \$28.5 million, which was set five or six years ago. We are happy, but the cost may have gone up."

See MOHELA, page 14



UM-COLMBIA

Under Gov. Matt Blunt's new proposal, UM-Columbia would lose its original allocation of \$85 million for a life sciences building. The planned life sciences building was scrapped after pressure from anti-stem cell research groups forced the university to revamp its ideas. Columbia now will receive \$31.1 million for the Ellis Fischel Cancer and Medical Education Center.

UM-KANSAS CITY

Blunt's new plan gives UM-Kansas City \$15 million extra for a pharmacy and nursing building. Originally not part of the MOHELA loan sale plan, these funds were made available after Blunt cut funding to the UM-Kansas City business incubator and health sciences center. UM-Kansas City also will receive \$3.4 million for the school of dentistry.

UM-ROLLA

UM-Rolla will receive an added \$4 million for Toomey Hall renovations. Under Blunt's original allocation plan, UM-Rolla was set to receive \$11 million for the renovations. If the plan passes, the school will receive \$15 million.

UM-ST. LOUIS

UM-St. Louis will receive full funding for renovations of Benton-Stadler Hall if Blunt's proposal passes the House and Senate chambers. UM-St. Louis will receive a total allocation of \$28.5 million dollars, all of which will go towards the renovations of Benton-Stadler Hall. UM-St. Louis Chancellor Thomas George said he is happy to see the changes, as Benton-Stadler is in dire need of renovation. The money will go not only toward improving the labs, which George said are worse than some high school labs, but to gut and improve the infrastructure of the building, including electrical and plumbing work.

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE

Northwest Missouri State University received one of the largest single allocation increases under Blunt's proposal. The university will receive, if the bill is passed, a total allocation of \$24.4 million, which is \$13 million more than originally proposed. The money would go toward the Center for Plant Biologies.

LINN STATE TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Linn State Tech will receive an allocation of \$5 million for a vehicle and power center. Originally left off the allocation list, the \$5 million is the only money the college will receive.

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Missouri's community colleges, including the St. Louis Community College branches, Meramec, Forest Park and Florissant Valley, would receive an added \$12 million for building projects. The community colleges originally were allocated \$18 million.

HARRIS-STOWE STATE UNIVERSITY

Harris-Stowe, located in downtown St. Louis, would receive an extra \$5.5 million from the allocation program. The money, under Blunt's plan, will be transferred from the CORTEX accelerator facility. The added funding will bring the allocation, which will go toward the Early Childhood and Parent Education Center, to \$15.7 million.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE

Southeast Missouri State University's Autism Center will receive an allocation of \$2.6 million. The center, which Blunt has openly supported, will receive the funds for renovation and improvements. Southeast also will receive \$21.7 million for other building projects.

New South Campus parking garage to open in November

By SARAH O'BRIEN

Assistant News Editor

Construction for a South Campus parking garage began last January in an effort to ease traffic congestion and student complaints in and around the residence halls.

The garage sits across from Oak Hall and adjacent to the nursing building, which also is scheduled for remodeling.

Thomas Royston, senior construction project manager, said construction is already well underway.

"The permission to proceed with construction for a 250 spot parking garage was granted on Jan. 17, 2007, and construction began a week later," Royston said. "The date for completion is Nov. 11, 2007. They want it done before the end of the year."

The parking garage is being built to remedy

deficient parking on South Campus, due to the number of residents, nursing students and Pierre Laclède Honors college students who park in that area.

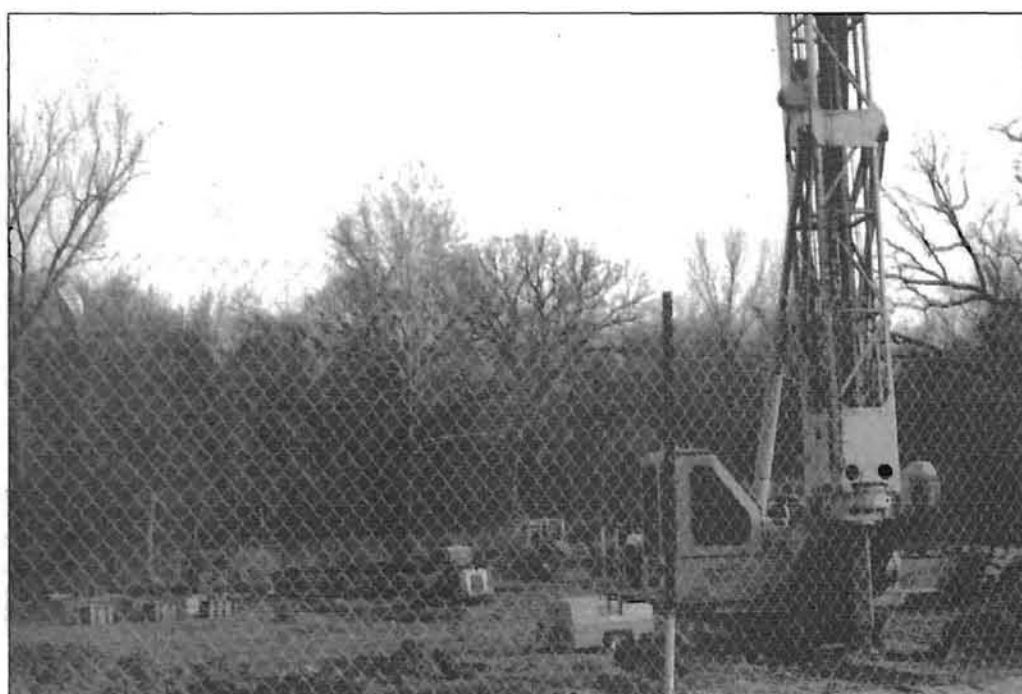
Jonathan Lidgus, student activities coordinator, said the issues on South Campus had become severe.

"We have a really big parking problem," Lidgus told the Student Government Assembly on Feb. 9.

The parking garage will be part of normal parking program, but a resolution has been introduced to offer residents free parking. Some spots may be set aside strictly for that use.

"The spots will be divvied up between residents, honors students, and nursing students," said Thomas Helton, junior, political science and former Student Government Association vice

See GARAGE, page 3



Heavy machinery stands idle Sunday afternoon at the sight of the new South Campus parking garage, which will open next fall semester.

Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

CAMPUS CRIMELINE

SATURDAY, MARCH 3

STOLEN AUTO - PARKING LOT E

The victim reported her white 2002 Dodge Intrepid four-door was stolen sometime Saturday afternoon between noon and 11 p.m., while she was attending a function at the Touhill Center. The vehicle was entered into the regional computer system as stolen. On Sunday night around 11 p.m. the Berkeley Police Department recovered the stolen car abandoned in the city. The vehicle was processed for any evidence and released back to the owner. The investigation is ongoing.

PROPERTY DAMAGE - 4454 NORMANDY TRACE DRIVE-MANSION HILL APARTMENTS

A female student and her boyfriend got into an altercation, which led to the male subject causing damage to a wall in the apartment and leaving with the victim's keys. Neither the victim nor the management wanted to prosecute the subject for the damage and agreed to have the victim pay for the damages. The locks were changed to prevent the subject from coming back.

MONDAY, MARCH 5

ATTEMPTED BURGLARIES-UNIVERSITY MEADOWS APTS. #615, 738, 827

The managing director indicated that three attempted burglaries occurred during the past two weeks and went unreported. The victims could not provide any suspect description or any additional information as to exactly what happened. It appears that the victims all noticed some type of damage around the exterior door to the apartments but did not attribute this to any type of crime. It is believed that no entry was gained into any apartment. The maintenance personnel from the University Meadows were able to make the repairs prior to reporting these incidents to the campus police.

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

PROPERTY DAMAGE-PARKING LOT JJ IN FRONT OF PROVINCIAL HOUSE

The victim reported that unknown person(s) scratched the driver's side of her vehicle while it was parked in the parking lot overnight. The victim did provide a potential suspect and the investigation is ongoing.

STEALING OVER \$500 AND FRAUDULENT USE OF A CREDIT CARD-PROVINCIAL HOUSE-LEGAS HALL AND THE UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE

The victim reported that her purse and contents were stolen sometime between 12:15 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. while she was away from her office in the Provincial House. The victim reported her credit cards stolen to the credit card company and was told that one of the cards was used at the UMSL Bookstore. The officer contacted the bookstore and determined that a subject did make two purchases at the store and the receipts confirmed they were made with the stolen credit card. One of the purchases was for a Play-station game system and games, and the other for some type of MP3 player. The employee described the suspect as black female approximately 35 years of age, six foot tall and weighing about 200 pounds, dark hair with golden highlights. The clerk stated it appeared that the suspect was also pregnant. The campus police are processing items of evidence left at the scene and the investigation is ongoing.

Remember that crime prevention is a community effort, and anyone having information concerning this or any other incidents should contact the campus police at 516-5155.

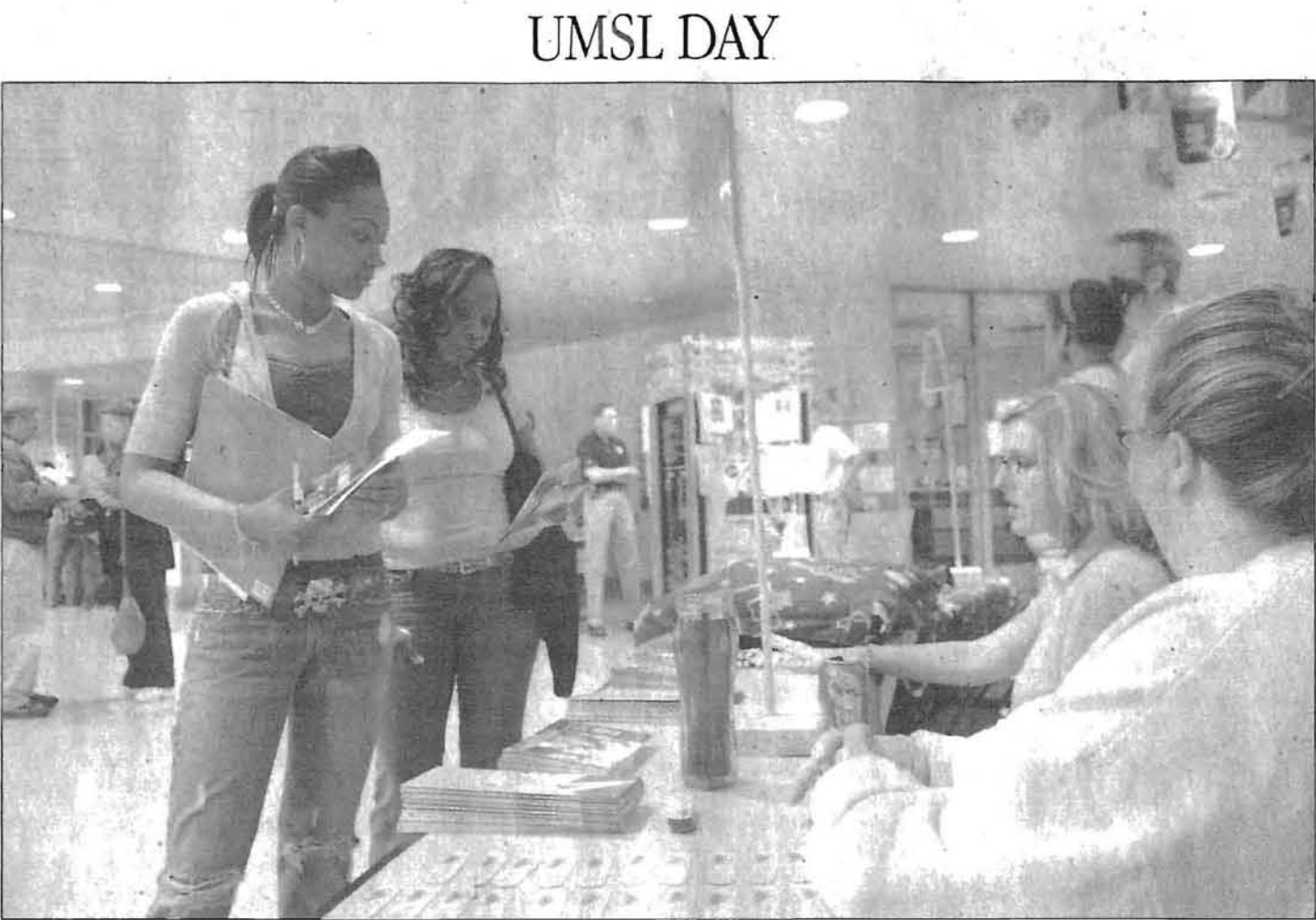
CORRECTIONS

In the March 5 issue of The Current, the following correction need to be made:

The article titled 'UMSL appeal denied in Brady case,' head baseball coach Jim Brady was misquoted. His correct quote regarding Senate Bill 532 should have read as follows, "They're saying it's not all right to discriminate in the private sector, but okay in the public sector."

The Current regrets that sometimes in our making of this publication, we make mistakes. What we do not regret is correcting our mistakes. Please let us know of any corrections that need to be made and we will print them in next week's issue.

To report a correction, please contact The Current at 314-516-5174 or by email at thecurrent@umsl.edu



Taylor Thomas, a senior at Belleville West talks with Health Services at UMSL Day. The event was held in several rooms in the rotunda areas of the MSC this past Sunday.

What's Current

Your weekly calendar of campus events

MONDAY, MARCH 12

Monday Noon Series

Fred Fausz, associate professor of history at UMSL, reports on new discoveries at the original settlement of Jamestown, Va., at 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Refreshments will be served at this free event. Call 5699 for more information.

Presidential Search Forum

The University of Missouri System Board of Curators will hold a forum to search for the system's next president from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in 126 J.C. Penney Conference Center. This forum is open to the public. Call (573) 882-9724 for more information.

Create a Professional Poster

The Undergraduate Research Symposium presents "How to Create a Professional Poster" workshops March 12 and March 20 from 4 to 5 p.m. Workshops will also be held March 14 and March 22 from 11 a.m. to noon. All workshops will be held in the SGA Chambers in the Millennium Student Center. Interested undergraduate students should email URS@umsl.edu for more information.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13

Conversations and Controversy

Interfaith Campus Ministries invites all faculty, staff, and students to discuss "Women and Religion" at 1 p.m. in 313 Millennium Student Center. Religious leaders from Catholicism, Islam, Lutheranism, and Judaism will be speaking. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

2007 Trailblazer Ceremony

"Generations of Women Moving History Forward" will be held at 1 p.m. in the Century Rooms in the Millennium Student Center. Seven women will be honored this year. The ceremony is free and open to the public. Call 5695 for more information.

Basic Conversational Italian

Basic Conversational Italian I will be held 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Conference Center on Tuesdays, March 13 through May 1. The fee for this noncredit course is \$65 plus textbook. Call 5974 for more information.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

Greek Alumni to Present Check

The Greek Alumni will hold a check presentation ceremony at 5:30 p.m. at Pujols 5 Westport Grill, 342 Westport Drive. The Greek Alumni raised \$1432 for the Pi Kappa Alpha House Reconstruction Fund. Call 4738 for more information.

"What's Current" is a free service for all student organizations and campus departments. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m. the Thursday before publication. Space consideration is given to student organizations and is on a first-come, first-served basis. We suggest all postings be submitted at least one week prior to the event. Email event listings to thecurrent@umsl.edu.

All listings use 516 prefixes unless otherwise indicated.



The University of Missouri System Board of Curators will hold a forum to search for the system's next president from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in 126 J.C. Penney Conference Center this Monday.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14

'The Art of Women's History Month'

Presentations in art, poetry, video poetry, experimental film and music will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Century Rooms A and B at the Millennium Student Center. The presentations will be followed by a roundtable discussion. The event is free and open to the public. Call 5581 for more information.

Book Signing and Reception

Marvin Berkowitz, professor of character education and doctoral student Carletta Washington will be signing copies of their books at 4 p.m. in the Marillac Hall lobby. Berkowitz's book, "Parenting for Good" and Washington's book, "Education Reform" will be available for sale. For details, call 5760.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Homeless Shantytown

In observance of Social Justice Month, the Catholic Newman Center will construct a Shantytown, at 5 p.m. on the greenway south of the Millennium Student Center. A candle-light vigil will close out the event at 9:30 p.m. Call (314) 385-3455 for more information.

Relay for Life Registration

Today is the deadline to register for Relay for Life. The event is April 13 and April 14. Register online at www.acsevents.org/umsl. E-mail asryq5@umsl.edu for information.

Poetry Reading

A Queer Women's Poetry Reading: "Sweeter than Cherries" will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Call 5581 for more information.

FRIDAY, MARCH 16

'Evening of Jazz'

"Evening of Jazz", a fundraising concert to benefit the Student Emergency Fund will be held at 7 p.m. at the Pilot House in the Millennium Student Center. UMSL Chancellor Thomas George, UMSL Jazz Ensemble, and students from Normandy High School and Normandy Middle School jazz bands will perform. Tickets are \$5. Call 5532 for more information.

Transition Day

Transition Day will be held from 9 a.m. to noon in Century Room A at the Millennium Student Center for students interesting in transferring to UMSL. Call 5162 for more information.

Spring Internship and Job Fair

The Spring Internship and Job Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mark Twain Building. Admission is free if you pre-register by March 13 at the Career Services web site. Admission at the door is \$5. Call 5111 for more information.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Bridge Program Saturday Academy Awards Ceremony

The Bridge program will be concluding its annual Saturday Academy College Preparation program with an awards recognition ceremony from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Century Rooms A, B, and C in the Millennium Student Center.

Celtic Musicians to Perform

Celtic musicians Pierre Schryer, Pat O'Gorman, Julie Schryer and Ian Clark will perform in celebration of St. Patrick's Day at 8 p.m. at the Touhill. Tickets are \$7 to \$15. Call 4949 for more information.

The Current

The University of Missouri-St. Louis
Student Newspaper Since 1966

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Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). Editor-in-chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

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AFFILIATIONS



Senate committee passes bill giving vote to student curator

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

The Senate version of a bill that would grant the student representative to the Board of Curators a vote, passed unanimously by the Senate Education Committee Wednesday.

The bill will now go to the full Missouri Senate for debate, but no date has been scheduled for a hearing.

Student Curator Maria Kerford said this is the first time, to her knowledge, a version of the bill has gone this far in the legislative process.

"I was so surprised that I almost fell over. I thought, 'no way,'" Kerford said when she first heard about the unanimous approval. "It felt like a major step toward a legitimate way of a student having a voice on the board."

Craig Stevenson, intern for Associated Students of the University of Missouri, said he worked the Sen. Chuck Graham, sponsor of Senate Bill 106 "to make the same language to match the House bill."

David Dodd, vice chair for the ASUM, said, "Having a student curator gives us a voice. It allows the stu-

dent curator to speak about and hear issues and offer their perspective to the Board of Curators, but it doesn't allow them to actually follow up on that."

Dodd added that granting the student representative a vote is beneficial because it gives "tangible student input in being heard in the university system."

The bill passed with an added amendment that would prohibit students from voting on personnel matters. Sen. Yvonne Wilson, D-Kansas City, recommended the amendment, expressing concern of a conflict of interest involving a student representative voting on faculty issues.

"I understand the hesitancy with faculty issues, but it rarely happens," Kerford said.

"The amendment is a compromise," Stevenson said. "It's not a conflict of interest, and maybe [legislators] will see that over time."

Kerford said the only personnel matters the student curator votes on is performance reviews of the UM system president, the secretary to the Board of Curators and the General Counsel.

Disagreement about whether the student curator would have a vote on choosing the next system president. Kerford said she would have a vote, but Stevenson said the student representative would not receive a vote.

The bill also gives a voice to students on governing boards at Truman State University, Missouri State University and the University of Central Missouri.



Maria Kerford

'Please allow me to introduce myself'

SGA moves to fill open positions after Helton resigns as vice president



Thomas Helton, former SGA vice president



Kelcy Siddall, senior, economics and new SGA vice president

Kelcy Siddall was elected SGA chair at the beginning of the school year.

The senior is now second in command to President Nick Koechig.

His duties entail making a report to the assembly at each meeting, as well as participating in various committees.

When Thomas Helton resigned as Student Government Association vice president, it left a vacancy that SGA President Nick Koechig felt needed to be filled immediately.

Koechig acted quickly and named then SGA chair person Kelcy Siddall vice president of the assembly, and also promoted Michele Landeau, to SGA chair, up from vice chair person.

Helton's departure also meant that UM-St. Louis was short a member on the Inter-campus Student Council. Koechig appointed junior Bryan Goers to the position.

Koechig also was forced to replace Tanzeena Hossain, former elections committee chair. Koechig appointed senior Brian Rails to the position. Below are the new officer's and what their duties will entail.



Tanzeena Hossain, former SGA election committee chair



Michele Landeau, senior, history and new SGA chair person

Michele Landeau was elected SGA vice chair at the beginning of the school year. She now takes over for Siddall as the assembly chair.

Landeau's duties will primarily include making sure the SGA meetings are run on time and adhere to Robert's Rules of Order.



Bryan Goers, junior, secondary education and new ISC representative

Bryan Goers was appointed to the ISC by SGA President Nick Koechig.

Goers, a junior and ranking member on the UM-St. Louis student court, will be responsible for attending ISC meetings with Koechig, and representing UM-Student's best interest at those meetings.



Brian Rails, senior, business administration and new elections committee chair

Brian Rails takes over the election committee from Tanzeena Hossain, who resigned her position last month.

The election committee is responsible for making sure all election deadline are met, including candidacy declaration, campaigning and the actual elections.

GARAGE, from page 1

"The new resolution [on behalf of residents who only park their car on South Campus] wouldn't take effect until the parking garage is up," Helton told the assembly.

The parking garage cost is estimated at \$5,444,000. Tarlton Corporation is contracted to build the garage as well as to work the front facade of the nursing building.

"That amount had already been budgeted to us," Royston said. "And

that covers the building of the garage, and the fixing of the nursing building's front."

Resident Caroline Erickson, freshman, public administration, said the new parking garage is a double-edged sword.

"On one hand I think it's good because we definitely need more parking on the South Campus," Erickson said. "But on the other I think it will definitely increase costs for parking

next year, and that's not good."

Krystal Maurer, sophomore, education and honors college employee, also sees potential problems with the added benefit of a new garage. "I think it will be good once it's built but it's a huge hassle for students now," Maurer said.

The planning of the garage was done in advance of construction by Parsons Brinckerhoff consultants, a Manhattan based company that engineers buildings worldwide.

Professors debate Iraq, Bush's foreign policy

BY PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

Regarding President George W. Bush's foreign policy and the Iraq War, "do we do nothing or do we act alone and risk being called an outlaw or bully?"

This was a question J. Martin Rochester, curators' distinguished teaching professor of political science at UM-St. Louis, posed during a debate last Wednesday. According to Rochester, this is a question leaders of this country must answer.

Rochester debated Frederic S. Pearson, director for the Center for Peace and Conflict Studies at Wayne State University, on the Iraq conflict and Bush's foreign policy during the annual Edwin Fedder Lecture in Foreign and International Affairs.

"Representing Bush's side of the argument, I have the tougher challenge tonight," Rochester said at the start of the debate.

Rochester centered his argument on three questions that ask if invading Iraq was the right decision: was it moral, was it legal and was it smart?

The answer to the first question is yes, Rochester said, calling Saddam Hussein a "ruthless dictator." "There was slaughter there well before we got

there," Rochester said. "He used lethal chemical weapons at least twice, once in Iran and once on his own people."

Critics who argue against removing Hussein supported a similar regime change in Kosovo in 1999, Rochester said.

Was it legal? Rochester's answer was no, citing Bush's argument for going to war did not meet the three criteria: collective security, self-defense and humanitarian intervention, when a nation may use armed force against another. "However, Clinton's intervention in Kosovo was illegal, too," Rochester said.

Was it smart? "It's too soon to tell," Rochester answered.

His opponent, Pearce, disagreed, pointing out the similarities of Iraq to the Vietnam War. "There is a lot of familiarization of the drum beats of the Iraq War as in the Vietnam War," Pearce said.

As in South Vietnam, "the people saw external domination as a way to exterminate, which is the cultural perception that exists today in the Middle East," Pearce said. "Here we went to Iraq and we should've known better."

In Vietnam, Pearce said, the United States experimented with nation building, trying to build an anticommunist country in a communist-controlled region of Asia.

"The decision to go to war was a self-defeating tactic that if we tried to reinstall or remake Iraq to resemble a Democratic model, we could remake the Middle East," Pearce said.

Rochester replied, "If you were in Bush's shoes, at the time, it was not unreasonable to go there in a post 9/11 world when you can no longer wait for the perfect intelligence."

Pearce maintained, however, that Bush had a campaign against Hussein before 9/11, since neither his father George Bush Sr. nor Bill Clinton eliminated the dictator.


Pearce added that in the way the United States attacked Iraq "it generates the enemy and it opens a nest of trouble."

The United States has lost the priority of eliminating Al-Qaida and disrupted Iraq, Pearce said, and while he said room for negotiations exist, it showed the hypocrisy of negotiations.

"We negotiate with North Korea who has WMDs and we start a war with Iraq, who has no WMDs. What does that say to Iran?" Pearce said.

Negotiations are one solution Pearce suggested, but Rochester said the Bush administration does not have the solution, either, and that the United States has "to do better than what the Democrats offered, such as can't we all just get along?"

St Charles Psychiatric Associates and the Midwest Research Group are conducting research for Anxiety and Depression



Stressed
Anxious
Depressed

Eligible participants may earn from \$250 to \$1,500 for participation. Call 636-946-8032 or www.MidwestResearchGroup.com

Research Studies for Adults with Amblyopia

You are invited to participate in research studies conducted at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, College of Optometry and Washington University School of Medicine.

In studies at UMSL (450 Marillac Hall) you will be asked to look at patterns on a computer screen and make perceptual judgments. Study sessions last 1-2 hours and 10-20 hours are needed to complete the study. You will be paid \$12.00 per hour of participation.

In studies at WU (Neuro-Imaging Center) you will be asked to look at patterns on a computer screen during a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) brain scan. Study sessions last 2 hours and 6-8 hours are needed to complete the study. You will be paid \$25.00 per hour of participation.


If you are age 18-60, have amblyopia ("lazy eye") and are interested in participating in either research study please contact:

Dr. Erwin Wong (Principal Investigator) at 314-516-6516 or wonge@umsl.edu

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Guest commentaries are typically longer (generally 400-600 words) on a specific topic of interest to readers. If you are interested in writing a guest commentary, please contact *The Current's* editor-in-chief.

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OUR OPINION



Rudy Scoggins • Illustrator

UMSL finally gets its due

For the first time in a long time, UM-St. Louis does not have to feel like the forgotten child.

Missouri Gov. Matt Blunt recently announced that he is restructuring the allocations for the proposed Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority sale, and UM-St. Louis will receive, if the plan is approved by the legislature, all the funds needed to renovate Benton-Stadler Hall.

More exciting, however petty this may sound, is that UM-Columbia has lost approximately \$40 million worth of allocations.

For too long, Mizzou has been the fair-haired child, the university that could do no wrong.

As such, when extra funds were allocated, Mizzou received the "tiger's" share, as it was. Now, they get to feel what the rest of the state universities in Missouri feel; anger, frustration and disillusionment.

Perhaps it is time Mizzou felt something like this. Understandably, folks in Columbia are not happy about the governor's announcement. Perhaps, however, they now know what it is like to live on "the other side of the tracks."

It is not like UM-St. Louis did not need the funds, however. Chancellor Thomas George, who has been holding his breath that the allocation goes through, has said that many high

school science labs are in-better shape and have better equipment than UM-St. Louis, so the funds were desperately needed.

It should be noted that the change in allocations were directly influenced by pro-life groups such as Missouri Right to Life that fought tooth and nail to keep funding from buildings that could potentially house embryonic stem cell research, despite the fact that Missouri voters approved embryonic stem cell research with a constitutional amendment last year.

Because of the uproar caused by the anti-stem cell research groups, UM System President Elson Floyd announced that a proposed life sciences building at UM-Columbia would instead become a medical research and cancer center.

Gov. Blunt went on record as saying that was a mistake, as the life sciences building would have far more benefit to Missouri's economy.

As much as we hate to say it, the efforts of those protesting the loan sale, i.e., Missouri Right to Life, have inadvertently aided UM-St. Louis. With UM-Columbia changing the building plans, our University may not have received the extra \$10 million needed to complete renovations of Benton-Stadler Hall.

We hate to sound like we are gloat-

ing over UM-Columbia's loss, but we have to, if just a little bit. That university has lived a life of comparative luxury, often times getting exactly what it needed.

The simple fact of the matter is, no other university in this state has the money generating capacity of Mizzou. With their basketball and football teams, Mizzou can generate an enormous amount of money, even when those teams are losing.

With their state-of-the-art athletic facilities and Mizzou Booster program, UM-Columbia has several outlets to generate funds independent of state issued moneys.

Schools like UM-St. Louis must depend upon state funds, and when extra cash comes along, such as with the MOHELA loan sell-off, we must be proactive in doing our best to get as much as we possibly can.

In this regard, Chancellor George must be commended for his efforts in lobbying the governor when he came to campus two weeks ago.

We know many UM-Columbia backers will not like what we have to say. They will feel as though Mizzou has been slighted, and denied needed funds.

We are forced to tell those in Columbia, "Now you know how it feels."

GUEST COMMENTARY

Signs of the times: A response

By MICHAEL RANKINS
Guest Commentator

In the February 26, 2007 edition of *The Current*, Opinion Editor Myron McNeill expressed his concerns about The Blacklist, a resource compiled by Charles Tarver, a writer and radio station director at the University of Delaware. This resource, authored by an African American gay man, was shared by the GLBT & Allies Resource Center as a contribution to Black History Month.

Tarver's work discussed the sometimes difficult intersection between African descent and LGBT minority status, and the inherent difficulties of multiple minority status as experienced by Black LGBT persons.

In compiling a well-researched list of famous and influential persons of African descent who were also lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, the author hoped that above all else, LGBT persons of African descent (and other persons) would see that it is indeed possible to be Black, LGBT, and successful.

Given the prevalence of homophobia within many cultures in the United

States, including (but hardly limited to) African American/Black culture, as well as the existence of LGBT culture as a largely invisible minority, it is essential that positive images of LGBT persons of African descent be presented.

This is especially true for persons of African descent who are themselves LGBT. Particularly during Black History Month, these persons yearn to see some sort of programming which reflects who they are, and which speaks to their inclusion in a celebration of Black culture...whether they are "out" or not.

When Mr. Tarver began compiling The Blacklist in 1994, in response to claims that "Black LGBT people had never contributed anything of importance to the Black Community," he knew that his work would be controversial.

I also anticipated controversy in sharing his work with the UM-St. Louis community. Yet despite anti-gay bias in society, the time has come to make LGBT persons who are also members of racial or ethnic minorities fully welcome within their communities of origin.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-

gender persons are unique in that they tend not to emerge from families and cultures of origin which share their LGBT minority status. When LGBT persons emerge from racial minority families, however, these double minority persons are in a unique situation.

Specifically, while the family and culture of origin shares with them one acknowledged, frequently visible minority status, it does not share their often invisible LGBT minority status.

When the minority culture of origin suffers from homophobia, this situation can be very difficult for both the LGBT individual and his or her family and community.

Criticism of The Blacklist based upon the controversial title, which was viewed by some as disrespectful of the African American, Black, and African descent communities, is a point of contention which I believe it is up to the author to defend.

In the future, however, when citing this resource, I will avoid any impression of insensitivity on my part by avoiding the use of the title "Blacklist" as the title of a presentation which I share.

See **BLACKLIST**, page 12

STAFF VIEWPOINT

Hunger is not about food, it's about power

Last Wednesday afternoon, for one hour, I stopped being Paul and became Liang.

Taking on the role of Liang, who lives in northern Vietnam, where the average income is less than \$200 per year, I have no land so I work as a day laborer, earning a small income. My family barely has enough to eat. I can provide a rudimentary education for my son, but I need my daughter at home to help me.



By PAUL HACKBARTH
Design Editor

For that hour as Liang, I experienced life in poverty, sitting on the floor next to piles of trash and crates in the MSC Century Rooms, which had been turned into a makeshift poverty-stricken area for a hunger banquet sponsored by the Catholic Newman Center as part of social justice month.

As Liang, I was part of the low-income group, representing the majority of the world's population. My average income is less than \$900 per year or about \$2.50 per day. Every day is a struggle to meet my family's basic needs.

Finding food, water and shelter may consume my entire day, but my biggest concern is being hungry. I don't get the minimum requirements of calories I am supposed to get.

I am just one of the approximately 850 million people who suffer from chronic hunger everyday.

When it came time for our meal, I received a spoonful of rice on a piece of cardboard with a glass of dirty water. (I still don't know what made the water brown and taste funny. I hope it was food coloring). My group had no silverware. We ate with our hands.

The group of individuals I was with was not alone. Next to us on one side of the room was the middle-income class, who were eating rice and beans with a

glass of lemonade. They also had plastic silverware and paper plates, and they sat at a plain table with chairs.

On the other side of the room, at the fancy table, the high-income group was served salad, chicken parmesan with green beans, twice-baked potatoes, breadsticks and dessert.

One individual from the middle-income group offered us her plate of beans and rice. The high-income table did not offer us any food until one brave person from the poverty-stricken group begged for food at the fancy table.

As I ate my rice and drank my brown water, all I could think of is how much food I, as in Paul, not Liang, waste. I cannot imagine what it would be like living on a meal of rice and water every day or even worse, not knowing when my next meal would come.

One lesson I, as in Paul, took with me from the hunger banquet after being in the shoes of Liang for an hour, is that hunger is not about food, it is about power. People who suffer from chronic hunger do not suffer because a shortage of food exists.

Chronic hunger exists because certain people do not have access to basic needs in life, shelter, a decent job, education, peace, political freedom and food.

Chronic hunger will not end by growing more food. It will end when we figure out how we can allow better access to food for those people who are starving and how we can better equally distribute food across the world.

So, the next time you are sitting at the fancy table eating chicken parmesan and you want to give your leftovers to the hungry, what will your answer be when somebody asks you, what's stopping you?

STAFF VIEWPOINT

In the pursuit of happiness

Fifteen years ago I wanted to be a pediatrician, but since I never really liked being around sick people, I knew that would not happen. Ten years ago I wanted to be a movie writer, but that only lasted a few weeks. My biggest dream of all was to be WWE champion. Yeah I know, that one is not going to happen either.



By LAGUAN FUSE
Sports Editor

The point is, we all knew what we wanted to be, but how many of us still pursue our childhood dreams?

I am not sure what tomorrow will bring or even what will happen later tonight, but as of right now I am a journalist and I have been for the last five years. I never really took the time to think about going back and trying to complete my childhood-goals because I am too busy trying to find my goals for my adulthood.

As children, I think most people had an overly optimistic view of the world that truly allowed them to dream. But as we all have grown older we realize the world is not the way we imagined.

That does not mean that everyone who wanted to grow up to be a doctor or a singer will change their minds, but how many people really grow up to be

who they wanted to be?

I know a few people who made their mind up early in life about what they wanted to be, but this is a small number. Most people I know are like me and have changed their minds and majors a few times. So although I am on schedule to become a professional journalist, something may come along one day and change everything. I just hope I graduate first.

Students who are trying to find what they want to do in life should be patient and open to almost anything.

If someone would have told me during high school that I would be an award-winning sports writer, I would have literally laughed in their face because I knew I was going to be WWE champion by the time I turned 25. Well seeing how I turned 24 back in January, I don't see a championship title landing in my lap over the next few months.

I know a few people who are only in college because their parents are making them attend college.

See **PURSUIT**, page 12

UNDERCURRENT

By Carrie Fasiska • Associate Photo Editor

Who is Saint Patrick?



Andy Fankhauser
Senior
International Business

"He brought Ireland all that is green."



Jennifer Riesenberger
Sophomore
Nursing

"He was ironically tall with a fascination for top hats and the color green."



Jesse Wilkinson
Senior
Management

"He was the guy who killed all the snakes in Ireland and he liked green."



Ashley Kerns
Junior
Anthropology

"He was a little man who was made fun of for liking green but stuck by it anyway."



Dan Butts
Sophomore
Nursing

"He was a man with a beard, a little nostril hair, real serious looking. I think he helped spread Catholicism to the Celtic tribes in Ireland."

What do you think? Send your own response to thecurrent@umsl.edu. The person who submits the best response each week wins a free T-shirt.

SCIENCE COLUMN

Offering solutions to global warming

On the subject of catastrophic climate change, one might take some advice from the old "Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy:" don't panic. Also, do not just stand there like a deer in the headlights — do something.

One of the partner organizations of UM-St. Louis' Whitney R. Harris World Ecology Center is the Missouri Botanical Garden. The World Ecology Center works to promote research and education in biology and conservation throughout the world.

Part of its mission is to increase public awareness of issues relating to global natural resource conservation and sustainable development.

Peter Raven, president of the Missouri Botanical Garden recently released other scientists in authoring a report suggesting solutions to the global warming crisis.

There has been a flurry of discussion ever since the United Nations released the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on global climate change in February this year.

The IPCC concluded that global warming is unequivocally real, already underway and more than 90% due to human activities.

While those who deny climate change is happening have ramped up their efforts, scientific groups have been weighing in too, in support of the IPCC's conclusions.

Among these has been the American Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the largest associations of scientists and publisher of the top scientific, peer-reviewed journal "Science."

Last year, this organization met in St. Louis for their annual meeting. The AAAS called global warming a "threat to society" worldwide.

Between the two extremes of either denying global warming is real or asserting that it is already too late — both of which call for no action — there is another response.

Peter Raven was one of the lead authors of another report, released by the UN on Feb. 27, 2007, which points to solutions to deal with the effects of global warming.

The IPCC, AAAS and this report



By CATHERINE MARQUIS-HOMEYER
Science Columnist

are all calling on governments, businesses and individuals to act now to deal with the danger. Waiting until all skeptics are convinced will be too late.

The report, titled "Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the Unmanageable, Managing the Unavoidable," was prepared by a panel of eminent scientists from around the world and co-chaired by Raven and Dr. Rosina Bierbaum, dean of the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

The report is the joint effort of the UN and Sigma Xi, a premier scientific research society.

The report urged action now, asserting "two starkly different futures diverge from this time forward." It offered two views of the world's future. "Society's current path leads to increasingly serious climate-change impacts," the report stated. "The other

path ... will reduce dangerous emissions, create economic opportunity, help to reduce global poverty, reduce degradation and carbon emissions from ecosystems, and contribute to sustainability. Humanity must act collectively and urgently to change course through leadership at all levels of society. There is no more time for delay."

The report clearly spells out goals and then gives practical, here-and-now solutions to achieve them.

The report recommended that to avoid sharply rising temperatures with intolerable effects on humans, government and business needed to agree to limit temperature increases to only 2.5 degrees over pre-industrial levels by rapidly decreasing soot and methane emissions and capping carbon dioxide levels at the current amount by 2020 at the latest.

Carbon dioxide levels then need to decline by 2100 to about one-third that amount.

The report points out that the technology already exists now to do this, and also offers other economic and social benefits.

See SOLUTIONS, page 14

STAFF VIEWPOINT

An angry earth wins every time

We have just received another lesson, ladies and gentlemen, in just how inconsequential the human race is to this planet.

It is early March, and we just witnessed one of the largest tornado outbreaks of the WINTER months on record. Twenty people are dead and dozens more are injured. Homes were destroyed,

a high school in Alabama was demolished, a hospital in Georgia is left in ruins.

In Missouri, a 7-year-old little girl was killed when a twister tossed her mobile home in Moberly. At a high school in Alabama, eight students were killed. This is another in a long series of natural disasters that appear to be getting worse.

Starting with the hurricane outbreak of 2004 where four major hurricanes battered Florida, continuing with the horrific tsunami that struck Indian Ocean countries and left a quarter of a million people dead, right through hurricanes Dennis, Wilma, Rita and Katrina in 2005.



By JASON GRANGER
News Editor

Wilma, in fact, became the most intense hurricane on record, as its total pressure dropped to a record 882 mbs, with winds as high as 185 miles per hour. It weakened before it hit the United States, but 2005

marked the first time in recorded hurricane history that three massive category five hurricanes on the Saffir-Simpson scale had formed.

All told, Dennis, Katrina, Wilma and Rita caused over \$120 billion in damages to the United States and killed 2,108 people.

This proves that for all of mankind's technical achievements, for all our ability to destroy, we are nothing in the face of an angry Earth.

A debate is presently raging about global warming and whether or not man is adding ferocity to these events.

See MOTHER EARTH, page 14

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coach Brady

Thank you to Paul Hackbarth and The Current staff for your excellent coverage of the saga of now Coach Diamond Jim Brady over the years.

This case is very pivotal in the history of UMSL Athletics and hopefully this will turn around the horrible program.

Thank you to attorney Jerry Dobson and our Judicial System for hitting the "Home Run" against the UM Curator Clowns in Columbia and our negligent UMSL administration.

Rumor has it that Donald Trump applied for the president position at the University of Missouri and this had the

curators and the evil villains at UMSL shaking in their boots because Mr. Trump wanted to tell them, "You're Fired!"

Pat Williams
Alumna

Campus Parking

During my year of attendance I have become aware of a serious issue concerning commuting students, and parking. The University of Missouri St. Louis is known as a commuter

campus, but unfortunately the layout of the campus is not commuter friendly. Finding a place to park is a real issue. There are not enough places for students to park. I have noticed that as I drive in circles competing for a spot to park; I have observed several staff/faculty parking. I am a firm believer that staff/faculty deserve to have reserved parking spaces, but many are going unused in the evenings. Why can't exceptions be made in the evening to allow students to park in those spots. I realize that UMSL has tried to accommodate student parking. Sadly the services that have been attempted are not meeting needs. I am

aware to two services, the shuttle buses, and MetroLink. As far as I have noticed, the student shuttle services is almost non-existent, during the evening. I have noticed the student shuttle buses every night parked in front of the Student Millennium Center. I have observed the shuttle bus running about 15 times during this year. I do believe the shuttle service is a great service to provide, but it needs to be running and serving all students. The shuttle service is not effective the way it is used now. The other service that the University provides is reduced fares for the MetroLink. I realize that this service is in jeopardy of being lost,

due to a lack of student usage. I strongly believe that the service should continue. MetroLink provides a real service to our student population, and it would be a shame to lose the discounted fares for students. The MetroLink is not used to the fullest advantage by students. I encourage those students that can use it to do so. It will serve two purposes. One, it will keep the discounted fares that UMSL has alive. Two, it will open up parking spaces for those that cannot use it. There are students that MetroLink cannot service. The link does not provide services where I live and work. I'm sure that I'm not the only student in the same predicament.

Something must change. UMSL has made attempts to fix the parking issue. MetroLink and UMSL have made agreements to assist in student parking problems. Students need to take advantage of this service, if they can. UMSL could allow students to park in some of the staff parking spaces in the evenings. I'm not saying that staff needs to give up their reserved parking, but could they share it. Don't take my word for it, observe it for yourself.

Cynthia Webb
Senior
Pre-Social Work

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Sheldon Williams
Third-Year Student

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POETRY WAS FOCUS FOR FOREIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

By AMY RECKTENWALD
Features Editor

It is said that a person cannot fully appreciate a language without an appreciation of the culture it derives from. Poetry and other literature are included in that culture.

So a poetry reading to kick off Foreign Languages Week not only seemed fitting, but entirely ideal, as an exposure to the sound of other languages and their cultures.

"It's one way to share the language with non-specialists," said Beth Landers, lecturer in French. "It also shares the culture. Poetry is a distilled

form of literature and not long. It allows listeners to hear what the language sounds like."

The short form allows for all the languages to be represented, which would not be possible with a longer form of literature.

Readings were given in French, Ancient and Modern Greek, Spanish, Basque, Japanese, German and Latin.

Selections were chosen based on this year's theme: "focus on form."

"We first chose a theme-we wanted to unify the presentation. This year, we chose poetic form," Landers said. Then each presenter made selections based on the theme.

Landers' selections were works by

Guillaume Apollinaire. Each poem presented was a shape poem, where the text of the poem is designed to visually match the content of the poem.

"There's no one else like him in the French tradition," Landers said. "Visually, they're quite striking." The two selections she read were "Il Pleut" and "L'Oeillet."

Selections made by Maite Núñez-Betelu, assistant professor, took a different form. She said she knew this year's topic was focus on form, and she thought of improvisation as a form of poetry.

Called "Bertsolaritza," the poem she presented was originally an

improvised construction in Basque.

"They made a song of it later," said Núñez-Betelu. She sang the final stanza of the poem for the audience.

Maria Balogh, lecturer in Spanish, said she knew the theme for this year's reading then "looked at a poet I admired. Then, I looked for a poem I could comment about the form."

She selected "La que comprende" by Alfonsina Storni, a poem which had recently been covered in her readings class.

"La que comprende" is called a serventesio, which has a form similar to that of a sonnet. According to Balogh, serventesio poems rhyme, with an ABAB CDCD structure. It

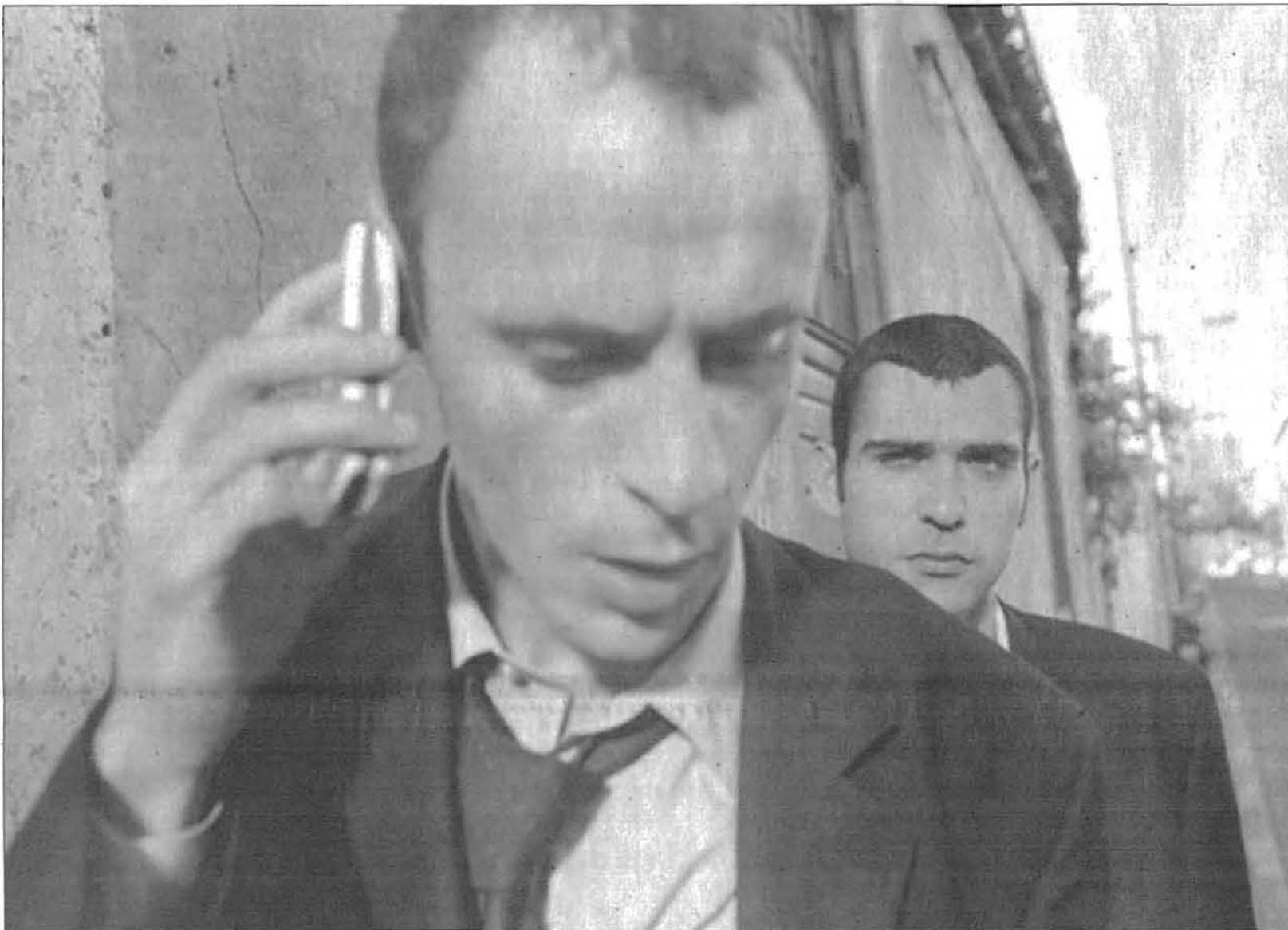
also has two quartets, with each line having 14 syllables.

Balogh's second selection was one of her own poems. In addition to being a faculty member teaching Spanish, she is also in her final year of the MFA program at UM-St. Louis.

The poem she selected, "La niña en la calle," is the Spanish version of her English "The Girl on the Street," which was published in the latest edition of "Bellerive." She said she wrote the poem in English first, and then rewrote it in Spanish with accommodations made for the language.

See POETRY, page 7

Language barriers broken by films on campus



Ali Suliman and Kasi Nashif in Warner Independent Pictures' "Paradise Now" from 2005.

'Paradise Now' exposes viewers to humanity in modern-day conflicts

By RACHAEL YAMNITZ
Staff Writer

Hany Abu-Assad's film "Paradise Now" from 2005 sheds light and motivation on the murky situation of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict of the West Bank.

In the film, Said and Khaled are two Palestinian men struggling to cope with the occupation.

The men have influences pulling them on both sides. On the first is Suha, the daughter of a previous martyr who is considered a great hero. However, she is a firm believer in using alternative means to resolve the conflict.

On the other, Said and Khaled believe that martyrdom is the only way they have left to fight. One discovers early that the men have signed up to participate in a martyr mission. They are soon asked to report to fulfill a mission in Tel-Aviv.

When the men are first introduced to the idea of becoming martyrs, Said seems to have reservations about it. He withdraws and seems to be overly contemplative about the situation. Meanwhile, Khaled seems excited about the possibility of completing the mission.

The last night the men spend with their families are vastly different. Khaled laughs and plays with his little sister. Said cannot sleep and goes to Suha's house, where they engage in a philosophical discussion about martyrdom.

Said still seems to have his reservations about it but continues on with the mission the next day. Khaled and Said complete the initial steps in the martyr mission: they create videos to leave their final messages, shave their hair and beards, cleanse themselves, pray and are suited up with the explosives they will use to carry out the mission.

When the time comes to complete



Lubna Azabal in "Paradise Now."

the task, however, something goes wrong and the men never make it to Tel Aviv. Said is separated from the group and spends a day looking for Khaled and thinking about what he is about to do.

Khaled meets back up with the group, has his explosives removed and then searches frantically for his friend.

Ultimately, they are reunited and told that the mission is still on if they both choose to go through with it.

When the actual time comes to complete the mission, one of them falters, and the resolution to the film is one that most viewers do not expect.

See PARADISE, page 12

Featured films of UMSL's Foreign Language Week

By RACHAEL YAMNITZ
Staff Writer

Foreign Language Week, which ran from March 5 to 9, included a variety of ways to sample the culture and language of other lands.

A big part of the week-long festivities was a free foreign language film festival.

The program had an impressive selection of good, recent films in a variety of languages including French, German, Spanish, Greek, Arabic, Japanese and Chinese, circling the globe.

Every day from Tuesday to Thursday, the Foreign Language department presented free foreign

movies. On most days, two films were shown. Each film had an introduction by campus instruction in that language, and refreshments were offered.

Each film had English subtitles, so it did not matter if viewers did not speak the given language. Of course, watching a foreign movie is also a fun way to practice language skills too.

One of the highlights of the film fest was "Paradise Now," which won the Golden Globe for Best Foreign Language Film for 2005 and was also nominated for an Academy Award.

This film in Arabic was a startling look inside the minds and lives of two young Palestinians, recruited to be suicide bombers in Tel-Aviv. The film was both a taut thriller with a plea for peace and a remarkable look inside the

world of suicide bombers.

Another excellent film shown was the German film, "The Edukators," a clever, surprising story full of plot twists, thought-provoking dilemmas and human drama, with a touch of absurdist humor about two idealistic political activists who planned capers to break into the homes of the wealthy and left them cryptic messages to make them uncomfortable.

When the girlfriend of one of them is evicted, a chain of events brought them to confront their ideals, philosophical conundrums, ideas about friendship and questions about where the future leads.

The other films offer a mix of comedy and drama, light and serious themes.

The French film "La Doublure" was a farcical comedy about a CEO who was photographed by the paparazzi with his famous model girlfriend, but concocted an elaborate story to fool his wife, which casts a porter in the photo as the model's lover.

The comedy showed the lengths he would go to create the illusion and the fallout in the lives of the girl friend and the porter.

There were two Greek movies in the series. The choice for Ancient Greek language was the wonderfully classic "Elektra," a film version of Euripides' classic ancient Greek tragedy.

See FILMS, page 12

UMSL new home for ELS center

By ANDREW TONNER
Staff Writer

UM-St. Louis has become the new location of the English Language Services Language Center in Missouri, continuing to teach English to international students and prepare them for a college education in the United States.

The ELS Language Center is located on the bottom floor of the Provincial House Honors College on UM-St. Louis' south campus.

Originally stationed at Maryville University, the ELS Language Center moved to UM-St. Louis in order to accommodate its students with a wide array of degree offerings and level of greater accessibility to the language center.

Because this center helps ready international students for learning in a university-style setting, UM-St. Louis was able to provide them with more degree options at a more convenient and affordable price.

The campus also has other facilities and services, which are available to the ELS students.

Transportation was a significant change with the move, which enabled accessibility to two of the MetroLink stops as well as bus services.

With only a small percentage of ELS students having both a driver's license and a car of their own, the majority relies mainly on public transportation to get around if they do not live on campus.

Allen Stout, director of the ELS Language Center at UM-St. Louis, said, "ELS is quite happy to be here, and the students are too. We encourage other students and the community to be receptive to making friends with some of the internationals we have here."

The ELS Language Center provides different courses to its students to help learn or further improve their English-speaking abilities.

It functions like a stand-alone school that is partnered with the university, going through the exact same experiences and opportunities as regular UM-St. Louis students.

The full-time intensive program is 30 hours a week. There is also a part-time semi-intensive course which is 20 hours a week. Both are four-week courses and are offered throughout the year, providing flexibility for interested students.

Those who complete their respective program will be ready to read, write and speak in English with varying proficiency.

Periodically, ELS students have the opportunity to participate in various activities with other students and the Language Center faculty, like playing sports or visiting attractions in or around St. Louis.

The purpose is to not only help the ELS students relax and have fun, but also to learn about St. Louis and American culture and give more practice in understanding English.

Stout said the Language Center also behaves as a kind of "patient helper" to students who are in need of immediate English-speaking assistance, such as calling a doctor or a taxi, asking for directions, contacting other people or any other service along those lines.

Those who are interested in becoming ELS students may find the proper applications and steps to enroll on the website, at www.els.edu.

According to Stout, the ELS Language Center at UM-St. Louis currently has 82 students involved in the program, which rises and falls with every subsequent semester.

TOP 10 Languages spoken in the world



1. Chinese (Mandarin), spoken by over 1 billion people.
2. English, spoken by approximately 512 million people.
3. Hindi, spoken by approximately 501 million people.
4. Spanish, spoken by approximately 399 million people.
5. Russian, spoken by approximately 285 million people.
6. Arabic, spoken by approximately 265 million people.
7. Bengali, spoken by approximately 245 million people.
8. Portuguese, spoken by approximately 196 million people.
9. Indonesian, spoken by approximately 140 million people.
10. Japanese, spoken by approximately 127 million people.

This list was compiled from information found at worldatlas.com.

If you have an idea for the next top ten list or any suggestions of what you would like to see us cover in our Features section, please send your ideas to us:

thecurrent@umsl.edu

You don't say! UMSL's native Basque speaker is literature buff, not linguist

BY AMY RECKTENWALD
Features Editor

Few can claim to be bilingual, and fewer still trilingual, unless they are linguists. But Maite N  n  z-Betelu can.

N  n  z-Betelu is an assistant professor in the foreign languages department. What makes her unique is that she is a native Basque speaker.

Born in San Sebastian, deep in Basque Country in Spain, N  n  z-Betelu learned Basque as her first language at home.

"I learned it as a child. My mom's family spoke it. My dad didn't, but his mom did," N  n  z-Betelu said. When she was 14, she enrolled in

Basque classes to reinforce the amount of the language she learned in the home to keep up her skills.

Growing up bilingual was not an issue for her, as she was very young and does not remember having problems learning Spanish as well, since that is what her father spoke to her.

"We had both languages at the same time all the time," she said.

Not many of her school peers spoke Basque, which she explained was due to going to a Spanish speaking school. In Basque country, however, many people speak both, and sometimes interchangeably.

"Now most of my friends from there speak it. We use both languages," N  n  z-Betelu said. However, mastering the language for use becomes tricky when she

goes home to visit.

"I find when I go, I can't find the words. But after a while, I can," she said. She affirmed this is related to the maxim, "If you don't use it, you lose it."

N  n  z-Betelu manages to keep up her Basque speaking skills every day in an unusual way.

"Since I'm here, I don't have as much opportunity, so I got a dog and talk to her. She sits and rolls over to Basque," she said. The canine is only Basque-speaking, unlike her owner.

N  n  z-Betelu not only speaks Basque and Spanish, but is proficient in English as well.

"I started studying it in eighth grade," she said. She went on to earn a bachelor's of arts in English.

During summers off from school, she would study abroad for practice, including London and Scotland.

In 1993, she came to the United States to study for a master's degree from West Virginia University.

From there, she attended the UMColumbia, earning her doctorate in 2001. Her graduate work was done in Basque Women's Literature. She describes literature as her focus.

According to N  n  z-Betelu, there was a belief that women did not write in Basque until the 20th century, but she said her research indicated otherwise, with women's literature being compiled as early as the 19th century instead.

She currently teaches 19th Century Poetry and Drama and also Special Topics in Hispanic Cultures.

The special topics class this semester focuses on minority cultures, covering Basque culture and literature and the Basque Country.

N  n  z-Betelu considers herself a literature person, more than a linguist, although clearly she has an interest in languages: She named Rosa Montero as one of her favorite authors. Her other interests involve photography and gardening.

"I can't wait for spring," N  n  z-Betelu said. "I'm not a great gardener, but I'm very persistent."

Her persistence is evident with the efforts she makes to keep her language skills alive and at work. She said at one time she had a student from the Basque Country, although not an actual speaker.

She keeps the language alive in

her classes, and also gave a reading in Basque at the poetry reading held by the foreign languages department.

There are approximately one million Basque speakers in the world, primarily in the Basque country of Spain and southwestern France.

Speakers in Spain are primarily located in Navarra, Vizcaya, Alava and Gipuzcoa, which are situated across the Pyrenees Mountains from the speakers in France.

According to N  n  z-Betelu, there are a lot of studies trying to find where the language came from, but they cannot find it. "There's no link. It's not in the Indo-European family," she said. She also said that it does not appear to be related to any other language.

POETRY, from page 6

This year was the fourth annual presentation of poetry for Foreign Languages Week. According to N  n  z-Betelu, the first year, the readings were given by students. The next year, the faculty was invited to read themselves, which has continued every year since.

"It's been large every year," Landers said. Not only do instructors bring their students, but according to Landers, "It's been a very popular event."

She also said that they could have used a larger room because they had a great turnout. Each year, they have

scheduled a larger room than the year before, and it will be the case again for next year, as some listeners were standing in the doorway because the room was packed.

"Space issues due to turn out is a positive problem to have with an event," Balogh joked that "by the time people start showing up, it's too late to move."

With students and faculty alike in attendance, the popularity of the event seems to be growing. "Even for the faculty," Landers said, "it's a huge pleasure."

Let's do lunch! Foreign language tables offer speaking practice

BY ANDREW TONNER
Staff Writer

Practice makes perfect, as the old saying goes, and with foreign languages, this is especially true. Several tables have been set up at UM-St. Louis to help give experience to anybody interested in foreign languages.

UM-St. Louis offers meeting tables for five of their foreign languages available to students. The tables are for students and faculty members who study or wish to know Spanish, French, German, Modern Greek or Japanese.

Each of these language meeting tables all provide similar activities during the times they gather together. These organizations meet at their own place and time on the university campus.

Anybody who wants to attend the table meetings are more than welcome to join, regardless of speaking experience. There is no requirement to sign

up, nor is there any cost involved in joining in.

Meetings are typically treated as a casual and relaxed environment for people to speak the language outside the pressure of the classroom.

They are also open to people who wish to learn about the cultures behind each designated language.

Typically, only that language is spoken, and anyone in attendance is encouraged to speak as much of it as possible so that one may gain a better understanding of listening and speaking practices.

During some meetings, other kinds of activities can take place as well. All the tables are set up for students to converse, but various readings can be selected, and sometimes a film or guest speaker can be present.

For example, the Greek Corner participated in an art gallery exhibition and poetry readings. The Japanese table regularly watches and discusses a television show called "Attention

Please."

According to Elizabeth Eckellkamp, the program features a Japanese woman who wishes to be and works toward becoming a flight attendant.

If a particular language table feels that a certain piece of material can be shared and may be interesting to the group, it could be brought to a meeting. Refreshments are also offered in many of these events.

Each of the five groups meets at different set times per semester at different places and is run by different instructors.

The Spanish table, or La Mesa de Espa  ol, meets in the Nosh on Wednesdays at varying times. They can usually be found in the Foreign Language department in Clark Hall or on MyGateway.

The French table, called La Table Fran  aise, meets every Tuesday from 1-2 p.m. in the Nosh and is currently instructed by Sandra Trapani.

The German table, known as Kaffeestunde, meets in the German Culture Center at 50 TeleCommunity Center, next to the UM-St. Louis Police office. It meets the first and third Wednesday of each month and is managed by Kersten Horn and Larry Marsh.

The Greek Corner, ran by Vassiliki Rapti, meets in the Nosh on selected Thursdays from 2-3 p.m.

The Japanese table, just known now as Attention Please, after the selected television program, meets in 409 Clark Hall at 2 p.m. every second and forth Wednesday. It is run by Elizabeth Eckellkamp.

Specific times and locations may be found at UM-St. Louis' foreign language website at <http://www.ums.edu/divisions/artscience/forlanglit/>.


All the groups are excited to take part in these language tables and hope that more students, faculty, or visitors will join them in attendance.

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A&E ON CAMPUS

March 15:
"Sweeter than Cherries: A Queer Women's Poetry Reading" to celebrate women author at 3 p.m. in 211 Clark Hall.

March 17:
Celtic music for St. Patrick's Day at the Touhill: Celtic musicians Pierre Schryer, Pat O'Gorman, Julie Schryer and Ian Clarkwill perform in concert at 8 p.m. at the Lee Theater. Tickets are \$7 - \$15. The concert is part of the International Performing Arts Series.

Mar. 17-18:
Stravinsky's Firebird ballet at Touhill
Alexandra Ballet performs Igor Stravinsky's one-act ballet, "The Firebird," plus 3 other ballets, 7:30 p.m. on March 17 and 2 p.m. on March 18 at Touhill. Tickets \$19 - \$40

Mar. 19:
"God Sleeps in Rwanda" screening and discussion Documentary about Rwandan women after 1994 genocide, 6 p.m. in the auditorium at Marillac Hall. A panel discussion will follow the film. Free.

Mar. 19:
Monday Noon Series: 'St. Louie Chop Suey' Malcolm Gay of RFT discusses early 20th-century chop suey craze, 12:15 p.m. in 229 J.C. Penney Conference Center. Free.

For more information on upcoming events check out www.Touhill.org or call the box office at 314-516-4949

TOP iTunes DOWNLOADS

- 1. This Is Why I'm Hot (Edited)- Mims
- 2. Glamorous- Fergie
- 3.This Ain't a Scene, it's an Arms Race- Fall Out Boy
- 4. Girlfriend- Avril Lavigne
- 5. Don't Matter- Akon
- 6. Glamorous (explicit edition)- Fergie



- 7. Cupid's Chokehold- Gym Class Heroes
- 8. The Sweet Escape- Gwen Stefani
- 9. It's Not Over- Daughtry
- 10. Break it Off- Rihanna and Sean Paul

MOVIE REVIEW



Photos Courtesy rotten tomatoes.com

Gerard Butler stars as King Leonidas of Sparta in the new action drama, "300."

'300' full of beefy and bikini clad Spartans

Sex appeal is rampant in new movie, but visual effects steal the show

By Cate Marquis

A&E Editor

"300" is an amazing technical achievement, sure to delight fans of graphic novels, movie-goers who love first-rate visual effects and even history buffs.

The film "300," recounts the battle of Thermopylae, where 300 Spartan warriors led by King Leonidas (Scottish actor Gerard Butler), held off a massive, militarily-superior invading force of Persians led by King Xerxes (Brazilian actor Rodrigo Santoro).

While they eventually succumbed, the battle allowed the Greeks time to unite and organize, and ultimately repel the invasion.

"300" has gung-ho action and battle-field violence for the action genre fans, and plenty of beefcake eye candy for the women in the audience. It also has a surprising amount of actual history, although the story plays out like fiction.

On the other hand, the film was somewhat less successful dramatically, and if viewers are expecting deeper

300
★★★★☆
Director: Zach Ryder
Stars: Gerard Butler and Rodrigo Santoro
Synopsis: Super violent movie recounts the story of 300 Spartans attempting to repel the invading Persian forces.

meaning from this story, they might be a bit disappointed.

Filmmaker Zach Ryder set out to make a film version of Frank Miller's graphic novel "300" that was so true to the original that it was as if the novel came to life on screen. He succeeded in creating a seamlessly visual triumph.

Miller, who also created "Sin City," has a visually striking style and his works are lauded with legions of fans. For "300," Miller took a historical event and recast it as mythology, with all the

legendary trappings and heroism of myth.

Miller was inspired by the 1962 film "The 300 Spartans," which he saw as a child, and he also did extensive historical research on the battle.

From a technical viewpoint, the film had few faults. It was largely shot with actors in front of a "green screen," yet the effect is flawless, with the actual actors completely integrated into the visual field.

Shot in a Canadian studio, there were

no locations, no sets and no cast of thousands, yet the effect is wholly convincing as a Greek epic, and even beautiful to see. The film looks more like live action manipulated to, desaturate the color than something done in green screen.

Techniques used were mostly green screen, but the rotoscope animation techniques of films like "Waking Life" and "Scanner Darkly" were also used to alter the appearance of the actors, albeit in a more subtle way in this film.



The story of the movie "300" revolves around an attempt by 300 Spartan soldiers to repel an invading Persian force.

Part of why this technique worked so well in this film was due to its artistic intent. Rather than going for realism, the visual effect of the film recreates the pages of the graphic novel, with painterly effects and alterations of the faces in some scenes, to make them conform more closely to the graphic novel original.

The filmmaker did want some realism, and actors were put through a rigorous physical program, especially Gerard Butler as Leonidas, to buff up for their bare-chested roles.

While technically ground-breaking and a worthy adaptation of the source material, the film is hardly flawless. The dramatics are uneven, with some stiff dialog and rather predictable plotlines. However, strong human themes of valor, loss and even love are stronger.

The story does a good job creating feeling among Leonidas and his officers. There are tender scenes between King Leonidas and his queen, Gorgo (Lena Headey), and an emotionally powerful scene of loss with a father and son on the battlefield.

On the other hand, a certain cardboard quality to the characters comes through as the villainous, bejeweled and effeminate Xerxes and the multi-cultural Persian army are so unrelentingly corrupt and repulsive, while the Spartan warriors are consistently shown in a positive light, even while coldly dispatching Persian battle survivors.

See 300, page 9

CD REVIEW

Josh Kelley's album falls just short of 'Amazing'

By Emily Ogle

Staff Writer

Josh Kelley's "Almost Honest" was released in 2005 and contains the hits "Only You" and the title track "Almost Honest."

The album has a good, catchy beat to it. The majority of the songs are infectious and easy to sing along to. Kelley often sounds similar to John Mayer or Jack Johnson in his songs, but he also resembles Chris Isaak at times, especially when using a deeper voice.

The first track on the album is, "Walk Fast," and Kelley uses more timbre in his voice throughout the song. The beat is catchy and sounds similar to the Christmas song, "Santa Claus is Coming to Town."

It's easy to imagine Kelley singing the song with a flirtatious smile.

The song itself is about not being taken advantage of. "Walk fast / You better walk fast / If you're gonna walk over me / Cause I won't be part of your plan / If you're gonna make a dog out of me."

Kelley's second track is the hit single, "Only You." The song has a catchy beat and Kelley has a playful tone throughout the song, using the chorus lines, "Only you / Know what is on my mind," to hook his listeners in. It is quite easy for this song to "get stuck" in a listener's mind.

"Love is Breaking My Heart" is better when the lyrics are in a story-telling mode. When the chorus breaks in, however, it sounds overcrowded, as though too many things are happening at once.

Kelley would have done well to make this song more acoustic, and in fact, the song sounds far better when one of the choruses is acoustic. Otherwise, "Love is Breaking My Heart" falls flat.

Kelley's song "Almost Honest" is the title track, and it is a poignant ballad. The music is melodic, and the lyrics are very visual, but they do not always fit in well.

The key lyrics, for example, "I was almost honest," have a sad quality about them, but do not make sense in the context of the rest of the lyrics. The

rest of the song, however, evokes wistfulness and longing.

"Didn't Hear That From Me" sounds preachy at times with lyrics like "Life is what you pray for / But love is what you stay for." The song sounds flat, and by its end, the lyrics sound grating with its repetitiveness.

"20 Miles to Georgia" is an upbeat, country-like song that is sentimental about home. Kelley, who hails from Augusta, Ga., sings about going home and getting some of his "momma's" cooking.

Kelley is nostalgic in his lyrics, and there is a bit of regret in them: "It took me 19 years, took 1000 tears / 'Till I realized I don't belong to Georgia."

The chorus of the song "Lover Come Up" is immediately catchy and

guaranteed to make you sing along with it. Throughout his album, Kelley has lots of sexual innuendos, and "Lover Come up" is no exception. He maintains a flirtatious tone throughout the song and is very enticing in this particular track.

"Shameless Heart" is a song that brings to mind a couple of other artists, like Radiohead and Chris Isaak. Kelley's voice has a haunting quality in this song, and he frequently uses a falsetto.

Instead of sounding out of place, though, the falsetto brings emotion to lyrics like "And I know your shameless heart ain't true / And I know every move you make is cruel" that other lyrics in the album lack.

In the track "Too Good to You," Kelley is trying to be edgier, but it falls flat. The sound is harder, but the lyrics are too repetitive, and the song is long.

When the chorus breaks out in Kelley's next track, "I Don't Mind Singing," with an "Ah-oh-oh," it detracts from an otherwise good song. The lyrics are simplistic but easy to sing

along with.

"Hard Times Happen" starts out with a honky-tonk piano beat and is immediately infectious. Kelley is best when he sings at the lower end of his range. The timbre of his voice accents the upbeat tone of the song well. The song sounds similar to Kelley's aforementioned "Only You."

"Lydia" is the last track of the album, and it is a nostalgic jazzy song sung to Lydia. Kelley once again uses a falsetto while singing. Lyrics such as "Will you be gone forever? / Where do I begin / Your face in the moon / Reminds me / I will see you again" evoke not only feelings of sadness and loneliness, but feelings of hope as well.

Kelley samples country and jazz while also falling back on his familiar pop sound he made famous with his first album, "For the Ride Home."

"Almost Honest" was his sophomore album, and he proved he had staying power. The standout tracks are "Shameless Heart" and "20 Miles to Georgia," but the album as a whole is a keeper.



Josh Kelley
"Almost Honest"
★★★★☆



Shen Wei Dance Arts performed at the Touhill PAC Friday, March 9 and Saturday, March 10.

Angela Clouse • Staff Photographer

Shen Wei Dance Arts is an acquired taste

By Stephanie Clines
Staff Writer

Dance St. Louis is of the oldest and most represented dance companies in the United States. Since 1966, St. Louis has seen some of the world's best dance performances. The Shen Wei Dance Arts presentation, however, was not one of the best.

For those that are as unfamiliar with Shen Wei Dance Arts as I was, consider yourselves lucky. Shen Wei Dance Arts is a dance group that performs Chinese opera. The show was broken up into two segments, each featuring a different piece of music and seeming to present a different story. The dancers did not speak.

The first thing that I noticed was that there were no props on the stage. There was no background and the lighting was very simple. Plain white light illuminated the stage. The stage floor was decorated with what seemed to be large circles of white chalk. The dancers wore light and dark gray clothing. Overall, the

entire set was boring.

The first segment, titled "Rite of Spring," lasted 45 minutes, which felt more like an hour and a half. "Rite of Spring" is also the title of the score that the dancers performed to. It is an abstract piece of music with piano as the only instrument used. It sounded like someone punching on each key on the keyboard one at a time and then all of a sudden speeding up and playing a quick melody.

As the piano played, one key at a time, the dancers moved to the rhythm. It was evident that the dancers were talented and flexible, but the choreography lacked any substance. I was not entertained.

Each time the music sped up, so did they, but instead of dancing, they would walk around in fast circles. It was like watching kindergartners play at recess. My mind flashed back to playing tag at recess while chanting, "you can't catch me."

It was not clear to this reviewer if this was a comedy show or a true art form that should be appreciated. It was hard to focus on the perform-

ance because there were too many dancers on stage and they were not dancing in unison.

At one point, one of the male dancers made his way across the stage by taking short strides with his hands by his side. He would move one foot and then place the other foot right next to it. He took a few steps like this before making a sharp turn to repeat the same motion. He looked like a chess piece being moved across the chess board.

Eventually, the artists broke up into three groups. Each group performed the same routine, but there was only one group dancing to the rhythm. At the end of the segment, the dancers bowed a total of five times, once individually, and four as a group at different points on the stage. Needless to say, the intermission was a blessing.

The second part of the show was much better than the first. This time, there were only four dancers and they all performed the same routine. This made it easier to focus. The score, "Tibetan Chants," was an a capella performed by Ani Choying

Dolma.

The stage was set up differently also. Still, there was no background or props, but it was interesting. In the center of the stage was a large circle of sand. Outside of that circle was a square made of sand. An even larger circle surrounded that square. The sand was blue and white in color.

This time, the dancers wore fuchsia tops, adding the much needed color to their costumes. Color always attracts and keeps an audience's attention.

This segment was actually a little enjoyable. I could tell that there was a point to be made, unlike in the first segment. The first segment was just a bunch of people running around in place with no purpose.

The vocalist, although singing in Chinese, seemed to be telling a story of struggle. The dancers were able to convey that same message. It reminded me of those movies about villages being raided and the people who die trying to protect it.

Rhythm is key and the dancer's moves were very fluid, not choppy

like the first segment. The transition from one step to the next was very gradual and not abrupt.

The vocals were an added plus. Vocals tell a story much better than instrumentals. The vocalist was not half bad either. Her voice was smooth and not pitchy. Unlike traditional Italian opera, there were no high notes. It was very peaceful.

The problem is, because I do not speak Chinese, I will never know if my interpretation of the performance was right. Was this a story of struggle or celebration? Who knows.

The second segment was enjoyable, however, I did not like the way it ended so abruptly. There was no gradual transition or no signs that it was coming to an end. Usually, you can tell when the end is near. The music will slow down or the dancers will start making their way off the stage. I knew the show was over because the lights went off and the curtain fell.

Overall, I would not recommend this show to anyone unless you arrive 45 minutes late and watch the second set only.

300, from page 8

The story is mostly faithful to history, and to the graphic novel, but it leaves out some details and adds a layer of commentary. In the film, King Leonidas sneers at the Athenian troops that come to join the Spartans for the battle. The Spartans were a warrior culture, which brutally trained their men to be profession soldiers, while the Athenians were not.

In the film, Leonidas derides the Athenian citizen volunteers, which include artists and philosophers, as inferior to his professional soldiers. The Spartans lead the attack and masterfully hold the Persians on the beach where they have landed.

What the film leaves out is that while Sparta was superior on land, Athens was superior at sea. In the real battle, the Athenian navy held the Persians at bay by sea, blocking them from simply going around the Spartans by moving to another beachhead.

The film also added some elements not in the graphic novel, like a romantic story between Leonidas and his queen, and a story of bribery, corruption and political intrigue back in Sparta.

It is possible to read in some modern political, post-9/11 commentary in the film, something not in the 1998 graphic novel, but whether we are supposed to see Leonidas' Spartans or Xerxes' Persians as stand-ins for the U.S. is not entirely clear.

One is also unsure how to view the way the Persians, that would be modern Iran, are portrayed. However, the interjection of potential modern references is more of a distraction that weighs down the film than a meaningful addition, and is perhaps the film's biggest flaw.

Other deviation from history is the skimpy leather bikinis that the Spartans fight in. Added perhaps for a thrill for the women in the audience, the effect is a bit too much outside realism. The guys, especially hunky Gerard Butler, certainly look good, but it makes the film seem less serious too.

For fans of Frank Miller's work or of movie visual effects, "300" delivers on its promise. It is recommended for action movie fans looking for entertainment as well. For those seeking meaty drama rather than beefy bods and battlefield red meat, you might want to look elsewhere.

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Category	Percentage
Plan to revisit Cytaq.com	94.89
Found the Store they wanted	89.24
Bought on 1st visit	84.77
Plan to revisit found store	92.46

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Dana Essner

Against Southwest Baptist last Wednesday, Dana Essner, pitcher for the softball team, led her team to a shutout win 8-0 with a no-hitter, the team's first since pitcher Nichol Kocis pitched one in 1999.

Essner struck out six hitters in five innings, including the first three hitters in the first inning.

Essner also contributed at the plate, going two-for-two, scoring two runs and two RBIs.

Essner is 1-1 on the season and has an ERA of 6.42.

Essner is a junior, pitcher and shortstop for the softball team. This is Essner's first season with the Riverwomen. She previously played for Meramec Community College.

UPCOMING HOME GAMES

Women's Softball

March 17
vs. Northern Kentucky
Noon

March 18
vs. Bellarmine
Noon

Women's Tennis

March 17
vs. Lewis
Noon

March 18
vs. Northwest Missouri State
2 p.m.

Men's Tennis

March 17
vs. Lewis
Noon

March 18
vs. Northwest Missouri State
2 p.m.

Softball team sweeps doubleheader



Photos by: Matt Johnson • Photo Editor

Casey Dierkes, catcher and infielder for the Riverwomen softball team, misses a pitch against Southwest Baptist last Wednesday. The Riverwomen won both games of the doubleheader at home.

Essner's no-hitter is team's first since '99

By TOM SCHNABLE

Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis women's softball team improved its record to 6-6 overall on the season with a doubleheader sweep over Southwest Baptist last Wednesday.

Much to the surprise of the Riverwomen, the night cap featured a no-hitter.

"To be honest I did not know, and none of us knew until the end of the game," said Chuck Sosnowski, softball head coach. "It was brought to my attention at the end of the game when we scored that eighth run. Usually I was aware of that and I was not. I was not aware at the time she had a no-hitter going."

The "she" he referred to was junior Dana Essner, who got the no-hitter by pitching five innings, allowing two walks while recording five strikeouts.

It was the first time a UM-St. Louis player had recorded a no-hitter since 1999, when Nichol Kocis accomplished the feat in a game against Northern Kentucky.

The reason the no-hitter came as such a surprise was because the Riverwomen invoked the mercy rule on Southwest Baptist since they were

up eight runs after five innings. On this day, the offense was just as good as the pitching.

The offensive attack was keyed by senior Corie Jones, who went 3-for-3 at the plate, including two singles and a double, to go along with a stolen base, two runs and three RBIs.

Along with her no-hitter, Essner went 2-for-2 with two doubles, two runs, and two RBIs.

The Riverwomen got a great pitching performance from senior Emily Wagoner in the first game.

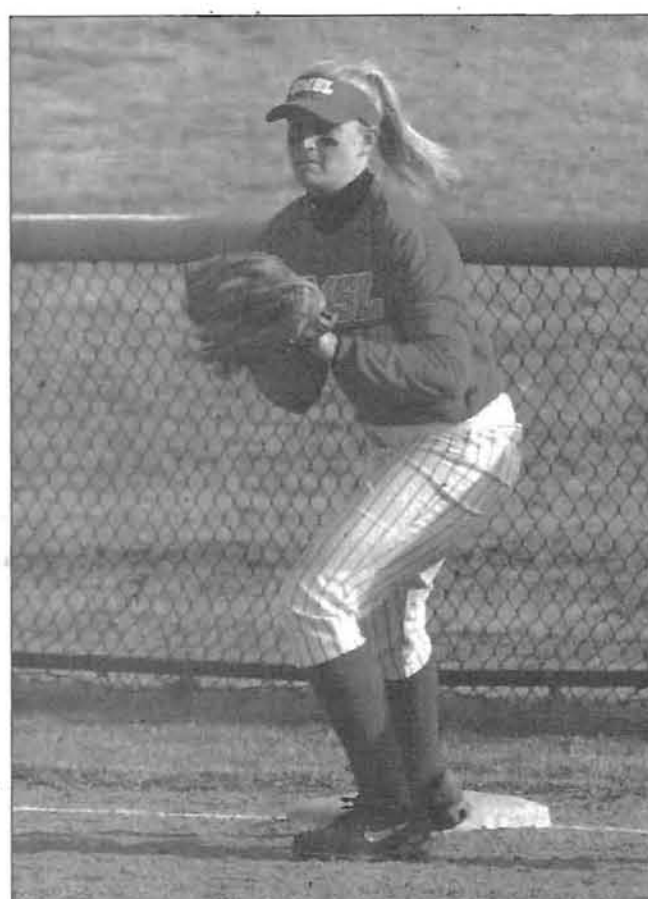
She pitched seven innings, allowing one unearned run on three hits, while striking out four and walking three batters.

The star of the offense in the first game was junior Casey Dierkes. Dierkes went 2-for-3 with a run, two RBIs, and notched her fifth home run on the year. The home run proved to be the game winning tally.

Also in the game, junior Jessica Keim provided the all-important insurance run on a double in the fourth inning that made the score 3-1.

Later, senior Danielle Votrian had an RBI double in the sixth. This was more than enough support for Wagoner, and when the game was over, the final score was 4-1.

After competing in a tournament at Missouri Southern this past week-



Jennifer Beckmann, first baseman for the Riverwomen softball team, catches the ball for the out against Southwest Baptist.

Beckmann recorded one hit in the first game's win by a score of 4-1.

The team went on to shut out Southwest Baptist 8-0 in the second game.

end, the Riverwomen are back in action with two games at Lindenwood on March 13 before returning home for another doubleheader with Northern Kentucky on

St. Patrick's Day.

The games with Northern Kentucky will be their first Great Lakes Valley Conference action of the season.

PLAYER PROFILE

Riverwomen turn to Moran as conference games begin

By MOLLY BUYAT

Staff Writer

The UM-St. Louis Riverwomen softball team is in a good place to start competing against conference teams, with a record of 4-6.

A large part of the team's confidence is stemming from the Riverwomen's senior pitcher Casey Moran. After coming off a two-year recovery with shoulder surgery, Moran is feeling strong and better than ever.

"I finally feel completely over the injury, like it is not something that is holding me back anymore," Moran said.

Moran's shoulder was launching out of place every time she hurled a ball. Shoulder surgery was the only way to get rid of the pain that resulted from overuse of the shoulder. The estimated recovery time for this procedure is two years, but Moran took the news with stride and two years later she is stronger than ever.

Moran only had positive things to say about her team this season.

"We have 17 players this year which is a number the roster has never reached since I have been at UMSL," she said.

In addition to having strength in numbers, this year the team is also playing well together.

"We are having a good season so far this year," Moran said. "We have not played any teams in our conference yet so we haven't made much progress. But we have played a lot of good, competitive teams that are helping us get ready for those games."

With the recent weather conditions, the Riverwomen had a few games cancelled, which has slowed the momentum.

"I am excited for the upcoming games," Moran said. "I think it is when we will hit our stride and show off all the hard work we have been doing at practices."

Moran has the lowest ERA of any pitcher on the team, with a 1.40 ERA in 20 innings pitched.

See MORAN, page 12



Casey Moran

Pitcher and firstbase for Riverwomen softball team

Basketball is more than just win-loss record for UMSL seniors

By LAGUAN FUSE

Sports Editor

College is all about classes and graduating for some people.

For others, college is about making friends and partying, while others try to find majors that will actually give them a high paying job.

And some students do all of that on top of finishing their final years as NCAA basketball players.

Five players were in the senior class this year, two from the men's team and three from the women's team.

The players gave their all during their time at UM-St. Louis and although their seasons did not end with a champi-

onship, they will graduate knowing they represented UM-St. Louis proudly.

This year's senior class has a diverse background. Each player helped the team in a personal way and each one will be missed on and off of the court.

From starting off in high school, to finishing at UM-St. Louis, these players made their mark every time they touched the court.

Jennifer Dewell played high school basketball for Marion Senior High School and was named a three-time all-district selection and a two-time all-region selection. Dewell was also an all-state selection in track and soccer.

Dewell was originally recruited from high school by Lee Buchanan and started her college basketball career at

Francis Marion University. Dewell averaged 4.3 points per game and hit a total of 44 3-pointers during her time there.

When asked about transferring to UM-St. Louis, Dewell said, "It just was not my type of basketball. The coaching switch made it a different type of style. When I decided I wanted to transfer, I knew Nikki Jerome came here and we were really good friends and Coach Buchanan was here, so I transferred basically for basketball."

Dewell said that she will miss the basketball atmosphere and traveling with the team.

"The team is like a family," Dewell said. "It is kinda like you are leaving your family. There is nothing like game night; putting on your jersey and stepping

on the court. I am really going to miss that."

Dewell played in 48 games for UM-St. Louis, scored a total of 400 points, pulled down 227 rebounds and dished out 58 assists. She also finished with 23 total blocks and 19 steals.

"This season was not all about winning and losing basketball games," Dewell said. "There is more to basketball than your record. I think this year, personally and as a team, we really did learn a lot about ourselves."

During high school, Megan Alberts lettered four years in high school and earned all-state recognition. Alberts was also on the softball and track teams and was the shot-put state champion in her senior year.

Alberts is the only player in the senior class who has played all four years at UM-St. Louis. Choosing to play for the Riverwomen not only allowed Alberts to pursue a college basketball career, but also gave her the chance to pursue a childhood dream of becoming an optometrist.

"They [UM-St. Louis] have a 3+4 program where I got into the bulk of my prerequisites for optometry school and got undergrad done in three [years]. I started my professional school this year."

"First when you come in you are scared because it is like 'I owe these people so much they are providing me with school and scholarships,'" Alberts said.

See B-BALL SENIORS, page 14

STAFF VIEWPOINT

NCAA tournament can lead to frustration when it's time to tear up your bracket

First things first: "The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering."

Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community.

Sports wagering demeans the competition and competitors alike by a message that is contrary to the purposes and meaning of 'sport.'

Sports competition should be appreciated for the inherent benefits related to participation of student-athletes, coaches and institutions in fair contests, not the amount of money wagered on the outcome of the competition."

This is the official position the NCAA, the governing body of college

sports, takes on sports gambling. Now that the official business is out of the way, it is time to talk tournament.

With the culmination of conference tournaments and the field of 65 being set in stone, a great number of people are preparing to fill out their first, and probably not their only, brackets of the year.

Whether it is the office pool, the pool your buddy has been doing for years, or one of the many online places to fill out brackets, one way or another, most people will be discussing their picks for the next few weeks.

Most people have different rationalizations for making picks the way they do, and each one of them is just as arbitrary as the one before. Some people make picks based on factors such as a



By TOM SCHNABLE

Staff Writer

team's overall record or how well the teams have competed over the last 10 or so games. Some people make selec-

tions based on what schools they have heard of, what a team's colors are, or what the mascot is.

Undoubtedly, we all know people who would fall into some, if not all, of these categories.

The truth is the same thing happens every year. Everyone always talks about how this is their year, they have all the best teams advancing, and they are going to win the pool.

They have been doing their homework on which teams are hot, which highly ranked teams are going to be upset, and which team is going to be this year's Cinderella.

Next Monday, when the first two rounds are over, all but about three or four people will have torn up their brackets, because their national cham-

pion lost to a 15-seed, and they are all but eager to forget the tournament and start talking about baseball's opening day.

As for those three or four lucky ones, they will tear their brackets up the following weekend.

As for this author, I have been doing my homework all year long. I know who is going down early and who this year's Cinderella is going to be, and as much as it pains me to say it, I think the Kansas Jayhawks are going all the way this year.

Of course, I will tear my bracket up next Monday because Kansas will have been upset, and someone will have picked that outcome because they think an Owl is a prettier bird than a Jayhawk.

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LOCATION The Nosh
DATE March 22nd
TIME 11:30 am
COST FREE

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with the SGA Green
Committee at UMSL



CURRENT CARTOONISTS

NUTN BUT THE FUNK

Rudy Scoggins

"A Friend in the Business"

Stupid midterms! Stupid all night cram session at school! Stupid lack of sleep!

Must...stay...awake... Must...stay...

Hi, I'm Tom Shane with the Shane Company

Dear God, no!

I select only the finest sapphires from the exotic coasts of Africa, only to pass their beauty on to you, so you'll know my blah blah blah bloo blah pearls blah blah care blah bloo hand-picked blah blah...

The Shane Company, located in Brentwood at the intersection of highway 40 and 170. Drop on in or visit us online at...

"Nut'n But the Funk" is drawn by Current cartoonist Rudy Scoggins.

SCONEBOROUGH

by E. Gearhart

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY'RE SHOWING FIVE HOURS OF "CHARMED" RERUNS.

THIS SHOW IS AWFUL! HOW HAS IT BEEN GOING FOR EIGHT SEASONS?

I'M PART OF THE MASSES! I NEVER ASKED FOR THIS.

A WHOLE CHANNEL DEDICATED TO LAW AND ORDER!

OH BOY. THEN THERE'D ALWAYS BE SOMETHING GOOD ON WHEN I WANTED TO WATCH TV.

I CAN'T BELIEVE WE'RE WATCHING IT.

GIVE THE MASSES WHAT THEY WANT, I GUESS.

SO WHAT DO THE MASSES WANT, THEN?

"Sconeborough" is drawn by Current cartoonist Elizabeth Gearheart.

Shakeia's Hair Salon by Sherry Holman "Haindo Suggestion"

What other type of hairdos should we do.

I think our theme should be exotic animals. We should look at their headdresses and the way their feathers or furs are displayed and try to copy it into a hairstyle.

Girl she go have our models walking around looking like this.

That's a good idea.

"Shakeia's Hair Salon" is drawn by Current cartoonist Sherry Holman

Let in the unexpected.

adamsandler doncheadle

reign over me

thisspring

You and a Guest are Invited to a Screening of

reign over me

Visit The Current at www.thecurrentonline.com to find out how you can pick up a pass for two.

When you stop by to pick up a pass tell us what song helped get you through a difficult time in your life and why.

COLUMBIA PICTURES The Current

Passes are available on a first-come, first-served basis. No purchase necessary. While supplies last. Employees of all promotional partners and their agencies are not eligible. One pass per person. This film is rated R for language and some sexual references.

IN THEATRES MARCH 23

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Snapshots at jasonlove.com



"Well, Mary, you've already screwed up your first two kids. This could be your last chance..."

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Way back when

4 Nerdy sort

8 Morass

12 Yuletide beverage

13 Plankton component

14 Radius' neighbor

15 Puccini opera

17 List-ending abbr.

18 "Tristram Shandy" author

19 "Undeniably" "the fields we go"

21 "the fields we go"

22 Pipe-bowl residue

26 Friars' tribute

29 Sermon subject

30 Dinner for Dobbin

31 "Grapes of Wrath" type

32 Legume holder

33 Stupefy

34 Branch

35 Rev the engine

36 Wept

37 Dancer's partner

39 For example

40 Parisian pal

41 Necktie

45 State

48 Carelessly

50 Story teller

51 Rent

52 The girl

53 Compassion

54 Cushy

55 Ball-bearing item

DOWN

1 Picnic troop

2 Joint-inflammation illness

3 Shrek, e.g.

4 Fish-eating seabird

5 Doyen

6 Id counterpart

7 Chirping grasshopper

8 Search

9 Last (Abbr.)

10 Literary collection

11 Cowboy's sweetie

16 Got up

20 A billion years

23 Type of Oriental cuisine

24 Hang out in the hammock

25 Black-Susans

26 Kerouac's place

27 Gumbo ingredient

28 Intentions

29 Bart, to

32 Shunners of the colloquial, maybe

33 Wood nymph

35 Jewel

36 Rug

38 Houdini or Truman

39 Muffler

42 Expansive

43 Arthur of tennis

44 Biblical pronoun

45 Matterhorn, for one

46 Half of XIV

47 Nosh

49 Privy



MAXIMO PREDICTS

Horoscopes for March 12 - March 18

Aries
March 21-April 19

Many times this week you will be presented with a problem, and many times this week you will ignore that problem to play video games.

Taurus
April 20-May 20

I see many, many marshmallow Peeps in your future. You disgust me, those things could survive an atom bomb ... or is that part of your plot? You plan to eat enough Peeps to make yourself invincible. I'm on to you Taurus.

Gemini
May 21-June 21

Wednesday will take place in the middle of the week for you this week. Go figure, at least it is an accurate prediction for once, eh?

Cancer
June 22-July 22

Tomorrow you will eat chocolate and forget to brush your teeth. I sense cavities will be abundant in your future.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 22

Man, I love Fruit Loops.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

This week will bring much happiness into your life. Unfortunately it will not be your own happiness, just the happiness of others, and you will have to sit there and watch it in your pathetic misery.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 22

I forsee dinner in your plans for the night, and maybe you will have breakfast in the morning. I suggest a big, hearty bowl of Fruit Loops.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You will find your calling in life this week, unfortunately it seems the only thing you are decently good at is playing Pac-Man. Perhaps there is a career to be found in that, but with your luck, I doubt it.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22 - Dec. 21

I know you would like to have a fun-filled day today, and you will, if only you can get yourself to stop being you and be someone who isn't a total dweeb.

Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 19

If you study really hard, you will waste a lot of time, still be stupid and still fail that test you have Thursday.

Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 18

I predict I will not put a joke at the expense of your mom in your horoscope this week. I really am getting good at this prediction stuff, that's two accurate predictions this week.

Pisces
Feb. 19 - March 20

Son of a beach.

DISCLAIMER:

Maximo Predicts is not specifically designed to torment Pisces individuals with countless references to fish and things related to fish. If you haven't picked up on it yet, Maximo thinks fishy jokes are funny. Maximo laughs for hours and hours at fish jokes, the occasional Star Wars comment and more fish jokes. Oh, and jokes about Aquarius' mom. Although, those are never jokes, Maximo has a very loving relationship with Aquarius' mom.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

7

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Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging

★★★ HOO BOY!

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Find the answers to this week's crossword puzzle and Sudoku at

The Current

online.com

MOTHER EARTH, from page 5

Former Vice President Al Gore believes we are. An outspoken environmentalist, Gore believes the amount of greenhouse gases man is dumping into the atmosphere is directly contributing to the intensification of the natural disasters.

This theory is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore, especially if one considers the tornadoes that hit last week took place in a winter month.

Still, people like Sean Hannity continue to deny the existence of global warming. At least Bill O'Reilly, another of Fox News' hosts, has admitted there is something wrong.

Recently on his radio show, O'Reilly commented, "I don't know if it's all being done by us or if it's a natural climate change, but I do know there's a lot of gook in the air and water, and it'd be better if there wasn't any gook. I'd like it if there wasn't any gook."

O'Reilly has a point in saying this could just be part of a natural climate shift, but scientists have shown that man is speeding up the process.

Ice cores taken in the ice shelves at the north and south poles show the

amount of greenhouse gases that were present in previous climate changes and how quickly the climate changed. The data shows we are speeding that process along.

All one has to do is look at photos of massive ice shelves literally breaking away from Greenland and Antarctica and disappearing into the oceans to see that. It is a sight that is humbling.

Gook is a good way to describe it. Major cities have to declare more and more unhealthy air quality days during the summer. In St. Louis, orange air quality days were added to the scale, because the city had to declare too many red air quality days.

So now we must ask ourselves, how long will Mother Earth stand for it? Could these recent disasters just be warning shots? Wake up calls to the fact that we are going too far?

We have options; we haven't yet gone too far. First of all, we need to begin actually producing alternative fuels. Not only will it be better for the environment, we also have to remember we only have a finite amount of fossil fuels. They will run out.

We also must look at making fuel efficiency standards higher. Can

Detroit produce a Hummer that gets better than 12 miles per gallon? Probably. Conspiracy theories aside, the automakers could take steps to make cars more fuel efficient.

The Express Scripts building under construction on the UM-St. Louis campus is another positive step. The building is being constructed under LEED standards for "green buildings."

Making use of eco-friendly measures such as more natural lighting, low flow toilets and showers, and energy efficient light bulbs, the ESI building could be a model for other construction projects in and around campus.

The simple fact of the matter is, humanity is nothing compared to and angry planet. It seems as though we have declared war on the Earth, and now it has started fighting back. These last few years should show us that if we truly decide to get in a fight with the Earth, we do not stand a chance. This is a war we would lose, and lose big.

If we are not careful, the last few years could just be a precursor to deadlier events. We have to act now to try and correct our mistakes.

MOHELA, from page 1

George stressed, however, that this plan is far from a done deal. He said at this point, it is just proposed legislation from the governor's office. Nothing has cleared the House or the Senate, but George believes the matter could be resolved in a matter of days.

"The only thing I can really say is, we have a recess next week," George said. "I'd think they'd want it wrapped up before recess, otherwise they'd have to stay over the recess. But I'm just guessing."

Benton-Stadler is in dire need of renovation, George said, and this money, if given, would go a long way towards fixing the problems.

"We have a building that is very old and is in desperate need of renovation," George said. "We've got a lot of plans in place. We might look to try and do some creative things. Create some swing space in front of the building, for instance."

Many of the problems within the building lay in its infrastructure, George said. Much of the building's

electrical work needs to be gutted and redone. The allocation will help to fix that, as well.

"When you are talking about doing work like electrical work, you are talking about displacing a lot of people," George said. "We'll have to look at solving that."

Renovation of Benton-Stadler holds a special place for George, as much of his professional career was spent teaching the sciences, he said.

"I've got a special passion for this," George said. "If you cut me open, I'll bleed electrons and neutrons."

Science students also stand to benefit greatly from the plan, George added. Most students involved in the sciences tend to spend the bulk of their time in the lab, and these students need better working conditions, he said.

"The science students, a lot of them kind of live there [in the labs]," George said. "Science students tend to spend time in academic buildings, where other students may spend

more time in the library. We want to make the labs as friendly as possible."

Noticeably absent from the allocations is \$85 million originally set to go to UM-Columbia for a life sciences building. After pressure from pro-life groups, such as Missouri Right to Life, put the loan sale in jeopardy, UM System President Elson Floyd announced the building would now house a cancer treatment and medical training facility.

Blunt has said in the past the life sciences building would attract more high-tech jobs and provide more of an economic boon to Missouri than would the medical center. The \$85 million represented almost one quarter of the total allocation. Instead of the original allocation, UM-Columbia would receive approximately \$31 million for the medical center, as well as money for other projects.

Blunt said in his statement that he has high hopes for the new proposal, and hopes it will pass soon.

B-BALL SENIORS, from page 10

"You are under so much stress. And then as the years progress, you realize 'wow there is so much more to life and you really need to relax and enjoy the time here.' Before you know it is gone. It has absolutely flown by."

Alberts played in 108 games and finished her career with 587 points, 310 rebounds and 55 assists. She also finished with 15 steals and 62 steals.

Alberts' favorite book is the Bible and she credits God for her success in basketball and in academics.

"God is everything to me," Alberts said. "I know without Him I would not have made it into optometry school or anything else."

Jennifer Martin played high school basketball at Millbrook High School in Raleigh, N.C. and during her senior year, she was named conference player of the year. Martin was also named a three-time all-conference selection during high school.

Martin played her first two years of college basketball for Campbell University where she set the single-season record with 33 blocks. She recorded a total of 63 blocks in her two seasons at Campbell.

Last season, Martin was named a Great Lakes Valley Conference second team all-conference selection and jumped to second on the list for UM-St. Louis' all-time leader in

blocks.

This season, Martin wrote her name in UM-St. Louis' record book as the all-time leader in blocked shots with a total of 133. Combining all four years, Martin finishes her college basketball career with 196 blocked shots.

"I do not like people scoring on me," Martin said.

Martin played in 54 games and scored 665 points during her two years at UM-St. Louis. She also grabbed 353 rebounds and completed 70 assists and forced 53 steals.

Troy Slaten played four years at Marquette High School and averaged 26 points per game and set the school single season record in points scored, assists and 3-pointers made. Slaten also set the school career record for most assists, points scored, 3-pointers made, free throws and steals.

During his first year of college basketball, Slaten averaged 19 points, four assists and four rebounds while attending Southwestern Illinois Community College.

Slaten only played one game during his first year at UM-St. Louis before an injury forced him to sit out the rest of the season. Slaten came back the next year to play in all 27 games and started 25.

Slaten scored a total of 741 points in 53 games for UM-St. Louis. He also grabbed 135 rebounds and made 85 assists and 38 steals.

"I consider all those guys my friends," Slaten said. "I did not know any of them before I started playing with them, except for Brett Ledbetter. Any time you spend that amount of time and go through that many grinding practices, you are obviously going to form bonds with people."

SOLUTIONS, from page 5

The report suggests the nation can increase transportation efficiency by increasing vehicle efficiency standards and fuel taxes and offering incentives for alternative fuels and vehicles.

In the '90s, GM and other major automakers produced fully electric cars to meet California fuel-efficiency standards. These cars had a range of 80 miles per charge and speeds of 60 miles per hour.

The cars were withdrawn from the market when the California fuel standards were changed and manufacturers claimed that, at the height of the SUV craze, a consumer interest was low.

Things have changed since, with the development of improved batteries that give more range per charge. Bringing those electric cars back would be a smart move.

The report also suggested expanded use of biofuels by giving growers and buyers incentives and improving design and efficiency of homes and commercial buildings with building codes.

The report suggests that coal fired plants are retrofitted for carbon capture and sequestration, and that all new coal plants be designed for such retrofits.

Acknowledging that some climate change is inevitable, it also suggested some ways nations could adapt. It recommended making preparedness plans based on future climate conditions, planning cities to cope with climate changes.

It also suggested international planning for weather disasters and planning for ways to help the poor and poorer nations, which will have fewer resources to cope and may be most strongly impacted.

Beyond its framework for general solutions, the report is packed with practical suggestions and approaches to the problem.

The European Union announced on March 9 that they are adopting a

global warming. Europe plans to take the lead in reducing greenhouse gases, developing renewable and alternative energy and use of biofuels.

Already, some businesses are taking note and talking about action on climate change, without waiting for government.

In late February this year, a group of business leaders and scientists met in New York and worked out an action plan to curb most greenhouse gases. The group, called the Global Roundtable on Climate Change, urged governments to join in by issuing clear standards on carbon dioxide levels.

The group also urged planning for a replacement of the Kyoto Protocols, set to expire in 2012.

In the press release issued by the UN with the report, Timothy E. Wirth, president of the United Nations Foundation, said the report, "makes clear that we must start immediately to stabilize and then substantially reverse the trajectory of greenhouse gas emissions." He also said, "there is tremendous economic opportunity in doing so."

"Our report makes clear that the challenge before us is to reduce the risk of climate change resulting in intolerable global impacts," Raven said. "Our recommendations are designed to help the international community get on a path to stabilizing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases and managing the impacts of climate change."

"Unlike many reports from scientists, this report gives very clear recommendations for what the international community and nations themselves must do to mitigate and adapt to climate change," he said.

"It is still possible to avoid an unmanageable degree of climate change, but the time for action is now," said John Holdren, chairman of the Board of the American Association for the Advancement of

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Call 314-935-5521, 5537 or 5546. You may also visit our web-site at www.rotc.wustl.edu

CAMPUS INTRAMURAL UPDATE

U.S. Cellular® gets me... so I can always get the score.

Badminton

Date: 3/10
Time: Sat 10am-1pm
Place: MT Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: Open

Team Handball

Date: 3/15
Time: Thurs 630-9pm
Place: MT Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: Open

Volleyball

Date: 4/9
Time: Mon 630-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 4/5
Division: M & W

Soccer

Date: 3/14-5/1
Time: Wed 630-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/8
Division: Coed M

Floor Hockey

Date: 4/3-5.1
Time: Tues & Thurs 630-9pm
Place: Mt Gym
Sign up by: 3/22
Division: Coed M

Bingo Nite

Date: 4/12
Time: Thurs 7-10pm
Place: South Provincial House
Sign up by: Just be there
Division: Open